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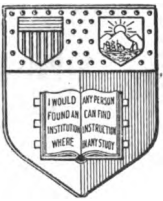


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THE

# MIDLAND FLORIST,

AND

# Horticulturist,

## A HAND-BOOK FOR THE AMATEUR AND FLORIST.

EDITED BY

ALFRED G. SUTTON, F.H.S.

"GARDENING IS THE PUREST OF HUMAN PLEASURES."

VOL. II. NEW SERIES.

LONDON:
SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, AND CO.
NOTTINGHAM: SUTTON BROTHERS.

1858.

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TO THE CONTRIBUTORS AND SUBSCRIBERS,

WHO HAVE, DURING THE LAST YEAR,

CONTRIBUTED PAPERS AND FORWARDED ITS CIRCULATION,

This Volume of the Midland Florist

IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED,

BY

THE EDITOR.

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JANUARY, 1858.

# Greeting.

FULL of hopes and good wishes we come before our readers, and with the shining of the fresh, clear face of the NEW YEAR upon us, gladly perform the pleasant task allotted us, of shaking hands with our many friends. We do it with strong wishes for the happiness of all the various hearts belonging to these shaken hands; and with a hope that the Mistletoe, Holly, and Ivy, not yet faded from their Christmas homes, have hung verdurous over smiling faces, and yet hide beneath their polished leaves and clustering berries, echoes of many a laugh and merry saying; and also—of something usually adjudged sweeter than either. Much should we like to hear the secrets those leaves and berries could tell! But it is well, perhaps, that plants and trees should be as they have ever been, circumspect keepers of such secrets, or who would venture to put up Holly-bush and Mistletoe again, even though "Christmas comes but *once* a year?"



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We hope these many friends are not discontent with the way in which we have fulfilled the promise made to them a year ago, of considerable improvement both in the matter and manner of our volume. For ourselves, we have had great pleasure in the growth of the *Midland Florist*, and hope still to have greater, as each year we mean it shall increase in worth and usefulness. Our efforts have been rewarded by a greatly enlarged circulation—a tripled one, and we do not despair of seeing this circulation doubled in the next twelve months. But well shall we be satisfied if a greater love for gardening and an enlarged appreciation of its pure pleasures shall by it have been strengthened in the mind of the working man, and have led him from the unhealthy moral and physical atmospheres of the tap-room, to the fresh breezes, green shadows, brilliant colours, and pure suggestions of the fruit and flower garden. It is there it was intended he should dwell, and it is there we would take him. And now, of our last volume we may say,

> "The daughters of the year,
> One after one through that still garden pass'd:
> Each, garlanded with her peculiar flower,
> Danced into light, and died into the shade."

And of this our present one, that it shall also be a true floral chronometer, and, like that larger one of the astronomer, which comprehends all others,—"the Great Chronometer of the Universe," whose hand is perpetually though silently progressing, whose appreciable moments are thousands of years, whose opening and

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shutting flowers, stars, and systems, revolve in vast circles of years, and whose comets are perhaps but missioned, like the bees, to gather honey from each and all, in their flight among the worlds,—it shall have for its motto, now and for the future, "*Progress! Onward!*" Our correspondents may help us to realize this motto: we feel sure they will do so. With many thanks to them and our readers—numerous and kind as they are, we wish them all, from our hearts, the "happiest *new year*" they have ever known.

## Herbaceous Plants.

KNOWING that at all times lists of the best things are acceptable to young beginners, I have taken up the subject of herbaceous plants, a class universally admired, yet very much neglected. To enumerate all the varieties possessing great merit, would require more space than can be given; I have, therefore, selected only such as should be in every garden, however select or extensive the collection may be.

*Aconitum Chinensis.*—A really useful plant for borders. It grows to about eighteen inches in height, with white and blue flowers in great profusion all up the stem. Erect growing and requires no support. It flowers from about the middle of August till the end of October. But this, of course, depends much upon the situation, which must be understood to apply to all the plants named in this list. The aconitums are an extensive genus of plants, and many of them are very useful, but our list will be confined to those that are particularly striking and popular.

*Anemone Japonica.*—A peculiar and distinct flower, of a rosy pink colour, and produced very freely. Grows to the height of eighteen inches, when in flower. A very useful and ornamental plant, flowering early, and continuing in bloom throughout the autumn. It was introduced into this country by Mr. Fortune, who as is well known, introduced many other really beautiful and useful hardy plants and trees.

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*Aquilegia Glandulosa.*—A species of Columbine, and considered one of the best. The flowers are white and blue, and the flower stem is from eighteen inches to two feet in height. It succeeds well in a sandy loam. The flowers of this genus yield abundance of seed, and produce a great variety of colours.

*Chelone Coccinea.*—A free-growing plant, and very ornamental. Flowers scarlet, and trumpet-shaped. The plant grows almost close to the ground, and produces flower stems about two feet long. It blooms about August. It is easily increased, by dividing the roots.

*C. Barbata* is also very good, and similar to coccinea.

*Campanula Speciosa.*—The whole of the genus Campanula are useful ornamental plants. C. speciosa is among the best. It grows to about fifteen inches when in bloom, and the flowers are produced erect, at the top of the stem. Colour purple. It blooms well, through the autum, and should be in every garden.

*Campanula Carpatica* is another useful plant. Colour blue. It flowers in July, and continues in bloom some time.

*Dielytra Spectabilis.*—This is a most useful and beautiful plant, and too well known to require any recommendation of mine. The flowers are rosy pink, and grow most gracefully on the stem, which sometimes reaches two feet in height. The foliage is also handsome. In the open ground, it flowers about May and June. It is also much grown for greenhouse decoration, for which purpose it succeeds well in pots, and flowers, of course, much earlier.

*Delphinium Barlowii.*—This is one of the species of Larkspur, and is very handsome. Colour dark blue. It blooms in autumn, and the flower stem is about eighteen inches long. It succeeds best in a mixture of peat, or leaf mould, and loam. If a few ashes be spread over the crown of the plant, after it has done blooming and the flower stem is cut down, they will preserve the root. Slugs are very fond of the young shoots, and must be watched as soon as the plant starts into growth.

*Delphinium Hendersonii* is also a very handsome variety of this genus.

*Delphinium Formosum* is more easily cultivated than the foregoing, and is more popular. It is a most valuable addition to this genus, and makes a splendid bedding plant. When it blooms, it is about eighteen inches in height, and the flowers, which are produced most profusely, are a beautiful blue. Seed sown in August will produce plants that may be turned out with the other bedding plants, and will bloom well all the summer. Seed sown in May will produce plants that will flower through the autumn of the same year.

*Helleborus Niger,* or *Christmas Rose.*—Blooming, as it does, in December and January, it is doubly valuable, its pure

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white flowers and handsome dark green foliage forming a striking contrast one with the other. It grows about twelve inches high.

***Hepatica Cærulea Pleno*** and ***H. Rubra Pleno,*** being early-blooming plants, are useful, where a continuance of bloom in the borders is an object. They are dwarf-growing, and should be planted near the edge. The double blue is the most scarce.

***Hesperus Alba Pleno,*** or ***Double White Rocket,*** is a universal favourite, from its fragrance, which resembles that of a good Stock. It also resembles that plant in its way of flowering. It grows about two feet high, and the flowers are purplish white. It may be increased by dividing the roots, which should be done every year.

***Iris Germanica.***—The whole of this genus are very interesting, and most of them very beautiful plants, and easily cultivated. This variety flowers in May.

***Iris Dichstoma,*** light blue, and ***I. Sordida,*** white, are also good.

***Lupinus Polyphyllus.***—This is a useful and ornamental plant. It grows to the height of three feet. It blooms in June, and produces seed freely, from which young plants may be easily obtained.

***Lychnis Chalcedonica Flore Pleno.***—A beautiful double variety of the scarlet Lychnis, deserving of a place in every garden.

***Œnothera Macrocarpa.***—A dwarf free-flowering species of this useful genus. The flowers are large and pale yellow. It grows to about a foot in height, and flowers from May till September. It makes a good bedding plant, and may be increased by seed, or cuttings, taken off early in the spring and put under a hand-glass.

***Orobus Vernus.***—A very pretty pea-shaped flowering plant, which grows about twelve inches high. It blooms in March, and the colour of the flower is purple.

***Pentstemon Gentianoides Coccinnea.***—A useful border plant, about eighteen inches in height, with scarlet flowers. Blooms well in autumn.

***Phlox.***—The whole of the Phloxes are very beautiful, and deserve a list to themselves. ***Phlox Nana*** is a dwarf plant, about four inches high, with purple flowers, which are produced very profusely. It blooms early in the season. ***P. Countess of Home*** and ***P. Omniflora Compacta*** are acquisitions to this class of plants.

***Potentilla Hopwoodiana, P. Antwerpensis, P. Mayana,*** and a few others, are very interesting plants, and succeed well in any common garden soil. The colours are varied, they are about eighteen inches high, and flower in June.

***Ranunculus Aconitifolius.***—An old plant, introduced into this country in 1596. It grows about a foot high. The flowers are white, and about the size of a small daisy. It makes a pretty early bed, and grows very freely.



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*Rudbeckia Hirta.*—A large yellow-flowering plant, which blooms very freely, and is very showy. It flowers in August, and is easily increased by dividing the roots.

*Statice Latifolia.*—This is a curious flowering plant. The flowers are very small, and last a long time in water. They have a pretty effect, when placed in or around a bouquet. They are pale blue, and very much resemble Lavender. The foliage is large and robust. The plant grows about fifteen inches high, and commences flowering in June.

*Tritoma Uvaria.*—This truly noble plant should be in every garden. It succeeds best in a rich loam, and should be taken up in the autumn, and kept in a frame. When this cannot be done, any slight protection will do, as the plant suffers more from wet than from frost. The colour of the flowers is orange and red, and they are produced on a stem, varying from two to five feet in height. This plant, when distributed about in borders, or made into beds, has a magnificent effect. It commences flowering about the end of July, and continues till cut down by the frost. In many places, it has flowered throughout a mild winter. This also is known by the name of Kniphofia. T. Medea, which is often sent for uvaria, will bear no comparison with that variety in habit or brilliancy of colour.

JOHN DOBSON.

*Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth.*

# New Hollyhocks.

WE extract from the *Transactions of the National Floricultural Society*, a list of all the Hollyhocks which have, during the past season, received first-class certificates, certificates of merit, or labels of commendation. As the greater part of these will most probably be let out this season, the descriptions, being those of the censors, may be interesting to many of our readers.

FIRST-CLASS CERTIFICATES.

*Sir Colin Campbell* (Paul).—Noble spike; flowers large, of finest form, and stout substance; colour very bright crimson. This Hollyhock is less pockety, with a finer and smoother guard petal than any of this colour, or perhaps of any colour.

*Queen of Yellows* (Paul).—Spike fine, flowers of good form, stout, size medium, colour bright yellow.

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***Nulli Secundus*** (W. Chater).—Form, size, and substance quite first-rate; colour bright lively pink.

***Pre-eminent*** (Bircham & Ward).—Form, size, and substance quite first-rate; colour rosy purple.

***Crusader*** (Paul).—Spike compact; form, size, and substance good; colour bright pink. Striking and novel.

***Waterloo*** (Paul).—Spike noble and dense; flowers of large size, good form, and stout; colour deep crimson.

***Primrose Model*** (Fellowes).—Spike full, flowers large, colour deep primrose.

***Pink Perfection*** (Paul).—Flowers large and full, colour delicate pink, a most showy and excellent variety.

***Arethusa*** (Bircham & Ward).—Spike fine, flowers of very good form, size moderate, stout, cream colour, with dull purplish crimson base, smooth and compact. A decided advance in its class.

***Rosa Bonheur*** (Bircham & Ward).—Spike close and good; flowers good form, large size, and first-rate substance; colour salmon-tinted buff, guard petals pink; somewhat broad. New combination of colours, proving highly attractive.

CERTIFICATES OF MERIT.

***Eldorado.***—Spike good; flowers medium-sized, close, and well formed; guard petals rather large, colour deep bright sulphur yellow. An improvement in this class, particularly as regards colour.

***Attraction*** (Paul).—Spike fine and well proportioned, flowers close, guard petals large and rather irregular, colour delicate rose, lively and attractive.

***Alba Pulchella*** (Bowler).—Spike long and well furnished; flowers small, though close and well formed; colour white. Shown with closer flowers than most whites.

***Mrs. Henry Bowler*** (Bowler).—Flowers very close and well formed, with just sufficient guard petal: colour rose, florets close, petals smooth.

***Prince of Prussia*** (Paul).—Flowers of excellent form, full size, and very double; colour shaded peach. Added to general good qualities, this flower has great novelty.

***Lady Palmerston*** (Paul).—Flowers very large, of great depth, and very double; colour delicate pink. A large chastely-coloured flower.

***Rose Celestial*** (Bircham & Ward).—Size large, form good, substance stout, colour rose blush.

***Purity*** (W. Chater).—Form very full, size large, colour blush white.

***Mrs. Chater*** (W. Chater).—Flowers large, full, and stout; colour pink blush, purplish at base.

***Purple Prince*** (W. Chater).—Flowers large, full, and moderately smooth; crimson purple.

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*Inimitable* (Bircham & Ward).—Spike first-rate, form good, size and substance average, colour lilac peach, shading to silvery edges.

*Cloth of Gold* (Bircham & Ward).—Spike average; flowers of moderate form, large, and stout; colour ochreous yellow. Meritorious for its richness of colour and as a decided improvement on Golden Nugget.

LABEL OF COMMENDATION.

*Exquisite.*—Marbled peach and blush, with purple base.

# A few Good Apples.

THINKING that a select list of Apples would be useful to your readers, I have given below, the names and descriptions of a few of the best varieties with which I am acquainted.

## APPLES FOR CULINARY USE.

*Keswick Codlin.*—This is a very useful early variety, an excellent kitchen Apple, in season from the beginning of August until the latter end of October. Fruit large, and, being very juicy, makes an excellent jelly apple. The tree is of vigorous habit, a great bearer, and succeeds well as a standard, dwarf, or espalier.

*Hawthornden.*—Of good quality for kitchen purposes, large and round. In season about the same time as the Keswick Codlin. The tree is not generally of good habit, suffering much from canker. It is usually grown as a standard, but I have several trees growing as dwarfs, which are far more vigorous than usual, and the fruit from them is really fine. Setting aside the canker, it is at all times a great and sure bearer.

*Sir Walter Blacket's Favourite* follows these two, and will be found good. I do not know a better for kitchen use. The tree is of vigorous habit, and a good bearer. Fruit resembles much the Keswick Codlin, but is not so large.

*Manx Codlin.*—I do not think so highly of this. The fruit is of medium size, and with me the tree is of vigorous habit, but in some soils, is liable to canker. A great bearer.

*Blenheim Pippin,* or *Blenheim Orange,* as it is sometimes called, will be found excellent. The fruit is of large size, fine shape, and handsome appearance. It is well suited for kitchen or table, being admirably adapted for either purpose

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The tree is of vigorous habit, attaining a large size, consequently, when planted as a standard, must have plenty of head room. It will make a fine espalier. Fruit in season from November to February.

*Dumelow's Seedling*, or, as it is better know in Nottinghamshire, *Normanton Wonder*. As for keeping, I doubt if there is a better sort than this. Fruit of large size, rather acid in taste, but otherwise excellent. A famous fruit for jelly. Keeps well, frequently until May. The tree is of good habit, and a great bearer as a standard. I have not seen it tried as an espalier or dwarf.

*Northern Greening*.—A good keeping Apple, fruit of medium size, not very eyeable, but of very quality for cooking. Keeps well till May. Of vigorous habit, attaining a large size. A good bearer, either as standard, dwarf, or espalier.

*Lamb Abbey Pearmain*.—I met with this at Lamb Abbey, Bexley, Kent, but it is well known in other places. The fruit is large, of good quality, and keeps till April. Tree of good habit, and a free bearer.

*Alfreston* is a really excellent variety, of large size. In season from December to March. The tree is of a vigorous habit, and does well as an espalier.

*Gravensteim* —Another really good sort, of large size, handsome appearance, and is in season till January. The tree is of strong growth, and, like the Blenheim Pippin, requires plenty of room. A good bearer.

*Cox's Pomona*.—This must not be forgotten. I believe it is a Buckinghamshire Apple. A large handsome red fruit, making a really good *object* for the dessert, although, in other respects, not of dessert quality. It is, however, of excellent quality for kitchen uses, and is in season till December. Tree of good habit, and a free bearer.

*Lord Nelson*.—A good fruit. In season till January. Tree liable to canker in some soils, while in others, it does well, and is a free bearer.

The above dozen, will, I think, be found to be as good as any other twelve in cultivation, all points considered. I will now proceed with my list, and notice

## APPLES FOR DESSERT USE.

*Early Red Margaret* or, as known in the midlands, *Eve Apple*. The fruit is of a medium size, of a beautiful red. Flavour first-rate, and very juicy. Should be used as gathered from the tree. Not a strong grower, therefore not attaining a large size, but of good habit. A free bearer, and admirably suited for small gardens. I have not seen this Apple for years, but it is worthy of being far more widely grown as an early fruit.

*Blenhiem Pippin*, or *Orange*, described above, must have a place in my dessert list.

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*Ribston Pippin* is so well known as to require but little commendation. The fruit is of large size, and of the finest flavour, and very much improved by being planted against a south or west well. In season from November to January. The tree is very subject to canker, and but a shy bearer in many situations.

*Court-pendu Plat,* kown about Nottingham as the *Wollaton Pippin.*—Fruit medium size, in season from January till March, tree of good habit. A sure bearer, and succeeds well as a standard, dwarf, or espalier.

*Fearn's Pippin.*—Fruit small, but of good quality. In season from November till February. A good bearer.

*Court of Wick.*—Fruit rather small, but very handsome and of really good quality. In season from December till March. One of the best dessert Apples we possess. Tree succeeds well as a standard, dwarf, or espalier, and is a good bearer.

*Devonshire Quarrenden.*—Fruit medium size, deep red, good flavour. In season in September. Tree a good bearer. Makes a good espalier.

*Lemon Pippin.*—Fruit large and covered with russet. Flavour good, but perhaps too dry to be agreeable to some palates. Keeps well till April. Tree of good habit as a standard, and succeeds well with me, in Bucks., as an espalier. Good bearer.

*Wyken Pippin.*—Fruit of medium size and fine quality, being very juicy and rich. In season in December. Tree of upright growth and a free bearer. Makes a good dwarf or espalier.

Should my list of dessert Apples be too extensive for your readers, the Devonshire Quarrenden and the Lemon Pippin may be left out; but still they are both of them well worth growing.

WILLIAM SHIPLEY.

*Heywood Gardens, Westbury, Wilts.*

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# Floriculture as a Science.

BY G. GLENNY, AUTHOR OF "THE PROPERTIES OF FLOWERS."

THIS embraces, first, the cultivation of flowers in the highest degree of perfection; secondly, the improvement of the races. The former is practised successfully by thousands, the latter is becoming more general. But, until the nineteenth century, there was not much progress made, although many attempted it. The advancement thus made was confined to very few subjects, and was accomplished

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chiefly by the humble classes. For many years before the late start, in 1832, there was no well defined object to attain in any single flower. Writers on the subject pretended to tell us the criterion, as it was called, of a good "this," "that," or "the other," but not one of them advanced a hair's breadth beyond an imitation of what we already possessed. They knew what particular variety was considered a good one, and they made that the "criterion." Of course, as there was nothing to try for, nothing to aim at, but to produce new ones as good, nothing beyond it was achieved. But, in 1832, we ventured to publish a series of imaginary qaualities, which we knew would be appreciated by the public, if they could be accomplished; and we also knew that the nearer the approach to our model that a flower could be produced, the better would it be pronounced by all who had the least taste. When we insisted that the Cineraria, the Pansy, the Verbena, the Geranium, the Phlox, and others, should be positively circular in the outline, and free from indentations, we had to bear the sneers of people who could not see a yard a-head; and scores, who called themselves florists, pronounced all these changes to be impossible, and therefore, our notions ridiculous. But no sooner did the raisers of novelties know what to try for, than they selected a very different style of flower to seed from. Those which had widened their petals, and thereby lessened the gaps where they divided, however ugly and unpromising the colour, were preferred, to seed from for future novelties, and we need not point out to our readers that nearly all the "impossibilities" have been accomplished; that is to say, the open star of the Cineraria has disappeared, and they are produced circular; the Phlox is perfect, though at one time it was the form of a five-sailed windmill; the narrow petals of the Verbena have widened, and it is rapidly progressing; the Geranium has wonderfully advanced towards perfection; and every flower for which we set a model has been vastly improved. Of course there was no more sneering at our "impossibilities." The Fuchsia, which, in all our recollections, was a graceful drooping flower, with the sepals hanging close and almost hiding the beautiful corolla, was not to our taste. The inside of the sepals is always brighter than the outside, and we laid down the law, that the sepals should reflex, like a Martigan Lily, showing the whole of the velvet corolla and the inside surface, instead of the outside of what was once its covering. Of course this was, in some people's eyes, another impossibility,—"it was unnatural," it was "turning the flower wrong side out, and the sepals upside down." The public, however, had faith in what we said a flower should be. There were raisers who seeded from varieties that showed the most inclination to reflex, and look at the flower now! The improvement has been so palpable, that the veriest tyro would instantly give the preference to the reflexed petal. The Dahlia was a weed. One

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nurseryman, at Epsom, cultivated and collected all the monstrous flowers that were oddly formed. There were "Anemone-flowered," "Ranunculus-flowered," "China Aster-flowered," "Globe-flowered," and as public curiosity and public taste struggled for the mastery, we thought it high time to banish such rubbish, at least from the show tables. We set forth the qualities a Dahlia ought to possess. We succeeded in directing public taste to a proper channel, and totally destroying the sale of all the bastard nondescripts. The Tulip was little valued for its form and purity, and the most foul and illshaped varieties disgraced many of even the best beds, and constantly took prizes. All the criterion that was held up for a good Tulip failed in giving the smallest idea of the form it ought to assume. One told us it should be the form of a cup, but which of the hundred-shaped cups that were made for ornament or use the raiser was to take for his model, nobody thought of telling him. Another said the stem was to be a particular height, when the youngest grower knew that there ought to be three, if not four different lengths. When, therefore, we settled the question, by saying the form should be half a hollow ball, and, when fully opened, a third of a hollow ball, the only snarling we heard was one scientific noodle in the country showing, by some twattling argument about the physiology of the flower, that our proposed form was neither possible nor proper; whereas, we pay no more respect to the physiology of the Tulip than we did to the star of the Cineraria, or the heart-shaped top and butterfly wings of the Pansy, when we were told that the proper form was indicated by the name, *Heartsease*. *Now*, the very best growers or the Tulip value its near approach in form to from half to a third of a hollow ball as one of its noblest features, although we have not many that come near it. In short, there is no denying that the publication of our *Properties of Flowers* improved the taste, and settled some very unprofitable squabbling amongst florists, and that the work is looked up to as an authority all over the floral portions of Europe and America. One compliment has been paid us, by people whose accidental position, not their honesty, prevented the necessity of more open thieving and its consequences, and that was by stealing *our words and ideas*, and publishing them as their own, a species of fraud seldom punished, because justice against the wrong-doer is too costly to be purchased by a man who writes for his living. But, if there be any fraud more cruel and unmanly, or that sinks the offender lower in the eyes of honest men, than robbing an author of his words, his plans, or his ideas, we should like to know in what den of infamy we are to seek for the crime or the criminal. However, the summary amounts to this: that our *Properties of Flowers and Plants* were opposed until they became authority, and then copied and republished as if the thieves had been the authors. The science of floriculture has,

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however, progressed, ever since the *Properties* were made public, and, though it was by no means a pleasant compliment, the very stealing of them was evidence of their value. There is no good reason why a man with only a rod of ground should not industriously take up one subject, and raise some every year, throwing away all that are not new, or better than the old of the like character, and saving seed from such as exhibit some good points. There is great room for a change in the Pink, Pansy, Verbena, Petunia, Dahlia, Polyanthus, Auricula, Carnation, Picotee, in short, in almost every flower, and the proper way to commence, is to get a pinch of the best seed he can command, that he may have a chance, though perhaps a poor one, the first season; but to buy one plant each of the few most striking varieties of whatever he is going to raise, and save for himself the next, he will have this great advantage the second year, he will start fair with the very best growers, because he will have their best to begin with, whereas they have been persevering for years to get where they are. But nobody can expect that the best growers will part with their best seeds, to start others. They must seek among brother gardeners and amateurs; and in saving seed themselves, they must not be content with marking the best, for if they let the worst open their flowers, the best will be spoiled. The best way is to destroy the others as fast as they come out, or remove the best, and plant them under glass, right away from the mass. The whole art and science of floriculture consists in saving seeds from those which are nearest what you want; and if there be any desire to cross one flower with another, remove the anthers from both, and apply the pollen of each to the other; but if a few of the best are placed together, away from all others, there will be little doubt of their crossing in every way, by the mere action of the insects. If all the amateur raisers would unite, there would be plenty of customers among themselves to pay a raiser well for a good thing; for, we are sorry to say, unless a flower that deserves it, is brought prominently before the public by an authority to be relied on, the raiser of a good flower has but little encouragement among the dealers. Burgess, of Chelsea, sold the Beauty of the Grove Dahlia, without making any bargain about the sum, and no flower has turned out better. Yet, at settling time, he was told that it had hurt the dealer's credit, that he had been obliged to return the money for it to those who had paid, and strike it out of the bills of those who had not; and for that flower, which was as honestly worth fifty pounds as one shilling was worth another, he never got more than five pounds. With us, it beats Fanny Keynes, and all that tipped class. In the north, it is grown and shown beautifully. It was the best flower on a winning stand, at Brighton, the year it came out. But if raisers be not too hasty, and let us see their novelties, there are plenty of honourable nurserymen on our list, above



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taking a mean advantage of a raiser. We hope, therefore, to hear of many novelties, even next year; for Petunias, Verbenas, Antirrhinums, Pansies, Hollyhocks, and some other perennials, if raised under glass and planted out in May, properly hardened, will not fail to bloom, and we all know that Dahlias perfect themselves the first season.

## Seedling Gooseberries of 1857.

FROM THE "GOOSEBERRY GROWERS' REGISTER," BY MR. R. MOORLEY, NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME, STAFFORDSHIRE.

THE following extract exhibits at one view the twelve heaviest seedlings that have been weighed in at the different Gooseberry meetings throughout England, whom grown by, and the county grown in.

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| Names and Colour. | Heaviest Weight. | Whom grown by. | County grown in. |
|---|---|---|---|
| GREEN. | dwt. gr. | | |
| ..... | 21 14 | J. Matthewman | Yorkshire |
| ..... | 21 0 | D. Chippendale | Lancashire |
| ..... | 20 11 | J. Hogarth ..... | Yorkshire |
| ..... | 20 1 | J. Smith ..... | Yorkshire |
| Reamer ..... | 19 20 | J. Walton..... | Cheshire |
| ..... | 19 17 | J. Prescott ..... | Lancashire |
| *Surprise ..... | 19 5 | G. Muscroft..... | Yorkshire |
| ..... | 18 11 | W. Higginbotham | Staffordshire |
| ..... | 18 3 | T. Nicholls ..... | Cheshire |
| *Tittensor ..... | 18 2 | J. Brassington.. | Staffordshire |
| *Poet ..... | 18 2 | R. Whalley ..... | Lancashire |
| Weatherall ..... | 17 20 | J. Coppock ..... | Cheshire |
| WHITE. | | | |
| *Miss Nightingale ... | 21 7 | S. Walton ..... | Cheshire |
| ..... | 20 20 | —Hooley..... | Notts. |
| *Progress ..... | 19 0 | Mrs. Lockett ... | Staffordshire |
| ..... | 18 21 | J. Metcalf ..... | Lancashire |
| ..... | 18 15 | S. Etchells ..... | Cheshire |
| ..... | 18 15 | J. Turner..... | Lancashire |
| Sarah Ann ..... | 18 14 | W. Fanar..... | Cheshire |
| ..... | 18 10 | W. Metcalf ..... | Lancashire |
| ..... | 18 9 | M. Hope ..... | Lancashire |
| Miss Wood..... | 17 10 | W. Box..... | Staffordshire |
| ..... | 17 8 | W. Whittaker ... | Lancashire |
| ..... | 17 6 | J. Boardman ... | Lancashire |

Those marked thus * have been let out this season.

# The Petunia.

IF all the weed into the flow maintained i it undesirable. Fr damaging effect upo the day gets brigh that it wants water. if, in looking over a the thickest and rou are large and ugly, bright in colour, t

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paratively little time. We must admit they have improved in colour and size, but without thickness and firmness, the size is a disadvantage, because they are totally unable to sustain themselves. Some of the smaller varieties maintain their form tolerably well, and when we see these by the side of the large ones, it is easily appreciated. We see in the great flimsy varieties nothing to recommend them. However round they may be, the circle is never in view, because the flower laps down on one side or other, and cannot keep its form. Under such circumstances, it might as well be three-cornered or square. In republishing the earliest sketch that was given, showing something like an approach to the form laid down as perfect, we have only to remark, that a perfect sketch, according to our *Properties*, would be a complete circle. Some parties, however, repudiate what is unnatural, and that, according to their own interpretation, is any thing they have not seen; but it is quite as difficult to make them embody our ideas of the perfection of a Cineraria, which we also want perfectly circular. However, let those who wish to improve the Petunia abandon colour and size, until there is thickness enough to keep up in its place whatever novelty they produce Work for thickness till it is attained, and then strive to improve colour and size. At present, the Petunia is only a weed.

GEORGE GLENNY.

## Notes of Gardens in Warwickshire.

No. I.

STONELEIGH ABBEY, the seat of the Right Hon. Lord Leigh, distant about five miles from Leamington and two-and-a-half from Kenilworth, is a spacious and handsome modern mansion, beautifully situated on an extensive plain, on the banks of the "soft winding Avon," and surrounded by a park, of some thousand acres in extent, widely and deservedly

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famed for the beauty and excellence of its venerable oaks, with which, not only the park, but the whole extensive estate is richly wooded. The scenery around the abbey is of the "tame and domestic" order, but withal rich, varied, and beautiful.

The gardens and pleasure grounds are also extensive, and have, during the last few years, been renovated and remodelled throughout. The flower gardens, I understand, are after designs by Mafield. They are, now, as will readily be supposed, in point of style and high keeping, in harmony with the magnificence of the mansion. At the date of this notice (late in November), the flower beds had been cleared of their summer occupants, and replanted with spring-flowering bulbs, Pansies, Daisies, and a variety of other low-growing, early-blooming things, as Arabis, Saponarias, &c. &c. The display produced by these, in early spring, Mr. Oates (the head gardener), assures me is scarcely surpassed in gay brilliancy by anything they can effect with the materials usually employed in summer grouping; and, if the general admiration of visiters be admitted as the criterion, then, assuredly, summer, with all its glories, must bow to spring. Near the house, but unattached, and facing the river, stands the conservatory, a large, sombre-looking building, lately erected, but evidently constructed with greater regard to external appearance than to the conditions that regulate the well-being of plants. This was gay with a rich assortment of finely-grown Chrysanthemums, Ericas, Epacris, Primulas, Amaryllis, &c., the centre being planted with Camellias, Rhododendrons, Acacias, and a variety of climbing plants, some of which are already of great size. The grounds are enlivened and beautified by many fine specimens of choice trees and shrubs; by a variety of ornamental vases, fountains, grottoes, &c., all very judiciously placed; but, above all, by the beautiful Avon, which passes directly through them.

The kitchen garden, in extent, about five acres, within the walls, is a model of high culture, amply



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evidenced by *forests* of "gigantic" Broccoli, "leviathan" Cabbages, and "giant" Celery. The glass erections here consist of two medium-sized span-roofed vineries, two Peach houses, two plant stoves, two greenhouses, two ranges (forty-five feet each) of low span-roofed forcing houses, to which may be added a variety of Dutch pits, frames, &c. The houses throughout, are, as regards structure, mode of heating, and ventilating, unexceptionable. Having recently passed through the hands of the late firm of Gray and Ormson, of Chelsea, *this* much may be expected. In the forcing houses, were some splendid Pines (grown on the Hamiltonian system), Melons, Cucumbers, French Beans, Figs, Vines in pots, &c. Mr. Oates may be justly described as a "fast man," in the matter of growing Grapes in pots, his practice invariably being to fruit Vines only *one year old from eyes;* that is, Vines raised from eyes this season, will be fruited (successfully too) next season. The dictum that a Vine must have a certain circumference, before being suffered to bear, Mr. O. practically treats as "bosh."

Of plants in bloom, the following were the most conspicuous, at the time of my visit:—Balsamina Hookerii, Impatiens Jerdoniæ. Of Begonias, Ingramii and Sandersoniana were the two best of a great variety in bloom. Poinsettia pulcherrima, Euphorbias jacquiniflora and splendens, Clerodendron squamatum, Ixora coccinea, and Meyenia erecta, treated as a trellis plant, was very beautiful, blooming freely and continuously. Balsamina Hookerii Mr. Oates regards as one of the *best*, as it is certainly one of the most attractive winter-blooming plants we have. Of Orchids in bloom, were Cypripedium barbatum, Lowii, and insignis, Zygopetalum Mackayii, and Oncidium flexuosum. Among variegated plants, of which there is a choice collection, were extra fine specimens of Croton augustifolia, Hoya variegata, Sonerila margaritacea, this last profusely in bloom. There is also a goodly assortment of exotic Ferns, and a variety of other matters, deserving of note, but, fearful I have already far exceeded the limits this

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article ought to occupy, I will at once conclude, by simply stating, that should any reader of the *Midland Florist*, from "afar," be sojourning in this quarter, at any time, he will find at Stoneleigh Abbey a combination of artistic and natural beauties "worth gaun twa miles to see," and may rely upon meeting with the greatest urbanity from those in authority; and simply announcing himself a devotee of Flora or Pomona, will be found to be the only talisman required to remove every embargo that may present itself in his progress through the gardens.

J. C., *W.*

## A little Talk about the Chrysanthemum.

AS we have had such a glorious show of this popular flower, which has now a first-class character as a winter plant, and, being so easy of cultivation that I have little doubt most of the lovers of floriculture will procure a small collection, a few hints to young beginners, from an old grower, may prove beneficial. A full and excellent description and treatise on the Chrysanthemum was given in the spring numbers of last year's volume of the *Midland Florist*, by Mr. Broome. There is, however, always something to be learnt, and possibly some of your *new* subscribers (of which I hope you have a large accession) may not have had the opportunity of reading them; I will, therefore, give you a brief account of the progress the plant has made, with a list of the best varieties, both for the show board and for pot specimens, and also a list of twenty-four good border varieties, that seldom fail to bloom freely; for you must know, that a great many of the first show sorts will not do for out-of-doors. They require to be placed under glass, or some temporary covering, to protect them from the cold. I have for years past grown some of the best show varieties, but never got a good flower, in consequence

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of their blooming so late; therefore, for border culture, I cannot recommend them, for they are sure to disappoint both purchaser and grower. Societies are springing up in all parts of London and the provinces. The Stoke Newington folks have had a splendid exhibition. The East London, at Hackney, composed wholly of amateurs, has exhibited some splendid specimens and cut blooms. Twenty or thirty pounds were given, and every exhibiter had a prize. There are about fifty members, and they were favoured with about thirteen hundred visiters. There were two exhibitions held at Bermondsey, principally by amateurs, and in quality, numbers, and success, they varied little from Hackney. In the provinces, Colchester and Ipswich have been very good. The plants and cut blooms, at the metropolitan shows, differed but little; pot specimens and cut blooms were shown at all. The Stoke Newington flowers were rather the finest, but then they have had eleven years' experience, the others only one. The old varieties still take the lead, only two or three new sorts being shown. The larger-flowering varieties, in eleven-inch pots, were very fine, some far superior to those exhibited at former shows. The best were, Vesta and Defiance (white), Albin (crimson), Madame Cammerson (crimson and gold), Mount Etna (Red), Phidias (rose and blush), Christine (peach), Annie Salter and Plutus (yellow), Dupout de l'Eure (orange and carmine), Pilot (rose). There was also a monster Vesta, two years old, shown in a large pot. It was five feet six inches high, twenty feet round, and had five hundred and seventy perfect blooms, and good foliage. The pompones were equally fine plants. Six, grown by Mr. Holland, gardener to R. Peake, Esq., of Isleworth, were superior to any thing of the kind shown before. The plants were about eighteen inches high, and from three to four feet through, and had from two to four hundred perfect blooms all at one time, with foliage to cover the whole pot, and no sticks, but here and there a slight wire, to support the heavy bloom and keep each branch in its proper position. They were grown

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in eight-inch pots. The cuttings were started in November, and kept in a cold frame all winter, repotted into four-inch pots, in March, and stopped. The next shift was into six-inch pots, and the laterals were carefully bent, by degrees, till they rested on the rim of the pot, with a thin wire peg, taking particular care not to bend them too much at a time, to prevent snapping. They were watered well with plain water and then with liquid manure, stopped again, and removed into eight-inch pots, plunged in a shady part of the garden, where they got the sun till eleven o'clock, attending well to the stopping up to August, and pegging down. They had plenty of liquid manure up to the time they showed colour. These gained the CUP, at the exhibition, as the best specimens, and a first-class certificate, at Kingsland. There names were, Bob (brown and red), Cedo nulli (white), Brilliant (crimson), Durnflet (rose carmine), Comte Achille Vigier (pale salmon), Pluie d'Or (Yellow). There were two other stands, very beautifully grown, but more pyramidal; not stopt, but twisted round, so as to form a large bush of bloom; but these required a deal of trouble and labour, in tying. They were Requiqui (plum), Alexander Pele (salmon bronze), Drin Drin (yellow), Saint Thais (chestnut orange), Madame Roussilon (rose and violet), Graziella (blush lilac), Trophée (rose, mottled). These were the principal varieties at the whole of the exhibitions.

Next come the cut blooms. These were very fine, one especially, called Themis (rose); it measured twenty inches round, and was full in the centre. Beauty (peach), Nonpareil (rose), Rosa Mystica (creamy rose), Miss Kate (lilac), Elizabeth (white), Stafford (rose purple), Plutus (yellow), L'Emir (bright red), Voltaire (rose). None of these, however, will do for open borders, as they bloom late. Good blooms of the following were also shown:—Queen of England (blush), Alfred Salter (pink), Dupont de l'Eure (orange and carmine), King (peach), Anaxo (orange red), Aregina (amaranth), Christophe Colombe (red violet), Trilby (blush), Hermione (blush and purple), Goliath (white),

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Madame Miellez (pink), Delight (yellow), Pio Nono (Indian red), Etoile Polaire (yellow).

In the large anemone class, were shown fine; Gluck (yellow), Eclipse (sulphur), Marguerite de York (canary), Madame Goudereau (white), Fleur de Marie (white), Nancy de Sermet (white), King of Anemones (crimson purple), Marguerite d'Anjou (nankeen), Rose Marguerite (rose), Marguerite de Norway (light red). These were the best.

The following twenty-four are excellent border flowers:—Vesta, Hermione, Princess Marie (rose), Delight, Formosum (yellow and sulphur), Comte de Rantzeau (crimson), Madame Poggi (crimson), De Crequier (rose), Queen of England, Alfred Salter, Annie Salter, Poudre d'Or (orange), Cassy (orange and rose), Beaute du Neva (crimson), Madame Andre (blush), Phidias, Versailles Defiance (rose and lilac), Christine, Astrolobe (orange), Anaxo (orange), Leon Lequay (rose), Temple of Solomon (yellow), Auguste Mie (red and gold). In addition to the pompones already named, the following will be found good for borders:—Beurre (yellow), Gem (scarlet), Sacramenta (yellow and red), La Vogue (gold), Aurore Boreali (orange), Mustapha (brown), Fleurette (violet), General Canrobert (yellow), Autumna (buff), Doctor Bois Duval (carmine red), Helene (rose), President Decaisne (rose and carmine), Vicomte de Caumont (red and yellow), Argentine (white), Modele (white). Should any of your subscribers wish to begin, the above may all be depended on as free and early bloomers.

At some future time, I will give a few notes on Mr. Salters' new varieties.

I see no reason why Chrysanthemum shows should not greatly increase. Why not have one, or even two, in the midlands, and in the north? Societies for the improvement of Roses, Dahlias, Tulips, Pinks, and Picotees, are very numerous, but little seems, as yet, to have been done for the Chrysanthemum. However, a brighter day is dawning, and, ere long, Chrysanthemums will be as popular as Tulips.

A PRACTICAL GARDENER.

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# Greenhouse Azaleas.

BY E. CLEETON, GARDENER TO E. HOLLAND, ESQ., M.P., DUMBLETON, NEAR EVESHAM, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

FEW plants are more useful than the Azalea, for the decoration of either the conservatory or the drawing room, during the winter and spring months, and, with proper management, a display of blooms may be kept up from December to July. Propagation is easily effected by cuttings. These should be selected from rather firm young wood, about three inches long, and carefully dressed, by cutting off the bottom leaves and making the heel smooth. They will then be ready for planting, and some four or six-inch pots, thoroughly drained with plenty of potsherds, should be provided. Over the potsherds place a layer of moss or turfy peat, to prevent the soil from being washed among them, and thereby stopping the drainage. Then fill up to within an inch of the top with a compost of two-thirds silver sand and one-third good peat. These ingredients should be well mixed together and passed through a small-meshed sieve. The remaining inch should be filled with clean silver sand, and the whole should be watered, to settle it, previous to the insertion of the cuttings. When the pots have drained, the cuttings may be planted, either in circles or rows across, but they should not touch each other. Then water gently, with rain or river water, with a fine rose watering pot. Bell-glasses should then be fitted to the pots, and they should be plunged into a nice sweet bottom heat of about sixty degrees. Keep them shaded from the hot rays of the sun. Here they should remain till they are well rooted, which will be in the course of six or eight weeks, when they must be taken out of the cutting frame and placed in a warm greenhouse, near the glass, for nine days or a fortnight. The bell-glasses should be removed every night and replaced next morning. If all has progressed satisfactorily, they will now be ready to pot off singly, into

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sixties; that is, if the cuttings are put in in spring, but if not till the middle of summer, I would advise that they be left till the February following. The soil for the early-struck cuttings is a mixture of good rich fibry peat and clean sand, well incorporated together. After potting, place them in a moist temperature of about sixty degrees, until they are well established. The atmosphere must be kept moist by frequent waterings; but great caution must be used in watering at the roots, until they have taken well hold of the fresh soil. Saturation is very injurious to this class of plants. They must be kept shaded from the bright sunshine, until the end of August, when they should be gradually inured to the full sun and air. At the end of September, remove them to a warm greenhouse, and place them near the glass, watering as necessary. Here they may remain till March, when they must be repotted into four-inch pots, in a mixture of two parts good fibry peat and one part clean silver sand. A good watering must be given, and they should be placed in a frame, with a bottom heat of sixty degrees. Air must be given at all favourable opportunities, avoiding cold cutting winds, which are very prevalent in March, April, and May; and as the hot weather approaches, shading must be attended to. Keep the atmosphere moist, and water sparingly, till the roots strike into the fresh soil. A second shift will probably be wanted towards the end of June, and this should be seen to as soon as the pots are full of roots, in order to avoid checking the plants, and also to get them well rooted in the fresh soil, before autumn. At this potting, a little extra peat, broken small, should be used, and also a little charcoal, to ensure the soil being permeable by water. Drainage must be secured by using abundance of potsherds, and in potting, the fresh soil must be made rather firm. The plants must then be placed in a pit, where a nice humid atmosphere can be kept up, syringing morning and afternoon, on clear days; but over watering must be avoided, although the other extreme is nearly as injurious. Avoid dribblings.

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Water only when necessary, and then give a good soaking. A month or so after potting, the root will probably have got hold of the fresh soil, and as soon as that is observed, any straggling shoots should be pinched off. The system of training should be decided on. Some prefer standards, others pyramidal bushes, both of which, by timely attention, are easily attainable. To secure a pyramidal habit, place a neat stake as near the centre of the ball of soil as circumstances will admit, without injury to the specimen, and neatly tie the main stem to it. When about a foot high, the point of the shoot may be pinched out, and it will then throw out a number of side shoots, which must be regularly kept tied out and trained down towards the top of the pot, still keeping a main leader, and stopping it every six inches. The side branches should also be stopped. If standards are required, remove the side shoots, until the main stem has attained the desired height, then stop it, and train according to your fancy.

[To be continued.]

## My Greenhouse.

A MIXED collection, in a greenhouse, wants a good deal of care, but, as most private places require a little of every thing, I try to grow those things that do well together, and give me a good show at several times of the year. I grow about a dozen Camellias, the same number of Azaleas, about a score of Geraniums, a few of the best Cinerarias and Calceolarias, two or three dozen Primulas, and of many plants not above one or two of a sort. In describing them, I shall begin with those in bloom now, and among these, the Primulas are most conspicuous.

PRIMULA SINENSIS.—I sowed a shilling packet of seed, last March, and had perhaps a hundred and more come up. I let them remain till they were large enough to handle, when I



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pricked them out, round the edges of pots, about an inch apart, and one in the middle. When they got large enough to touch each other, I took out every alternate plant, to make them two inches apart, and potted those I removed in the same way, two inches apart. They soon grew strong, and I potted them singly into three-inch pots, and, in October, shifted them into four-inch. They have now been blooming these six weeks, and seem likely to continue blooming six weeks longer. Of course, they require nothing but picking off the dead petals and a supply of water.

CAMELLIA JAPONICA.—The greatest care is required to keep them from sudden changes, for it would cause them to throw their buds. Some of them are in flower, and I am careful that I do not give too much water.

STYPHELIA TUBIFLORA.—This plant is not half so much grown as it ought to be. It is a little like an Epacris of the grandiflora kind, the blooms quite as numerous, rather thinner, and of a fine crimson. This is in flower, and when once it begins to bloom it lasts in good order for some time. The culture is very like that of the Epacris and other hard-wooded plants.

JASMINUM NUDIFLORUM.—This has no business among green-house plants, because it is hardy; but its profusion of golden yellow flowers makes it the most showy and brilliant plant in the house. It blooms when quite small, therefore, a few stuck on the shelves, here and there, take but little room, and make quite a show. Nobody ought to be without it. It blooms at Christmas, out of doors, and lasts a month or more. When kept in the house, it comes in flower a month earlier.

AZALEAS.—These are now indicating how they intend to bloom, the ends of all the shoots are swelling. They want seldom watering, till they move in earnest. On knocking ont one or two of the balls of earth, I find a shift will do them good, and they shall have it.

EREOSTEMON BUXIFOLIUM and others. I have three or four different varieties of this beautiful shrub, which always blooms profusely, and, except stirring the surface of the soil, and watering when dry, they want no other care.

ROSES.—A few in pots give occasional flowers, and frequently enliven the greenhouse in winter. These, we may say, have no business in a greenhonse, but my house is my conservatory, my show house, and my study is to keep flowers in it as long and as often as I can. It is always gay in May and June, but I want flowers in the winter time.

VERONICA ANDERSONII.—The prettiest plant in the green-house, with its bright green and glossy leaves, and its blue and lilac feathers of bloom. There is nothing to beat it. True, I have it in bloom in the open ground, but a frost will spoil its beauty, while, in the house, it continues to bloom for months. It requires nothing but watering when dry.

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GERANIUMS.—These want constant watching, the dead and discoloured leaves picking off, the shoots that grow out of shape stopping, and the balls turning out, to see if the roots are round the side, and if so, shifting to pots a size larger.

Then, as to the general collection and management of the house, it is well to light the fire and open the house by day, and the warmth will keep things right all night. The fires by day will keep the house from being damp, for the vapour will go off. All the pots should be examined, to see if water be really wanted, before they have it. Watch and prepare for frosts, and when your internal atmosphere, during frost, is raised above fifty degrees, give a little air, to keep it down. It is rarely that a frost is hard enough to hurt a greenhouse collection in one night, if the fire has been on in the day, and the house shut up without any, at night; still, as the full of the moon approaches, look out for severe attacks, and do not let down the fire.

## Reviews.

GENERAL PRICE CURRENT AND HORTICULTURAL DIRECTORY, FOR 1858, published by the Plymouth Seed, Agricultural Implement, and Manure Company.—This is an excellent manual, and will prove a useful guide to all who possess gardens, or take an interest in garden operations. It is got up in first-rate style, and contains one hundred and four pages of seed lists, calendar of operations, by Mr. R. Errington, lists of the new annuals, and a very good paper on the cultivation of annuals. The vegetable seed department is especially worthy of attention; each variety is headed with an instructive and explanatory description. We can confidently recommend it to every one, as a valuable companion. The price is only sixpence, and as it is published in London by Messrs. Simpkin, Marshall, & Co., it may be readily obtained.

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THE RANUNCULUS, HOW TO GROW IT, BY CAREY TYSO, WALLINGFORD, BERKS.—We have here an instructive little pamphlet, on this favourite florists' flower, written by Mr. Tyso, whose name alone reminds us of the Ranunculus. Mr. Tyso begins by informing us that it was introduced about the year 1596, and proceeds to notice its improvement, treats of soil, preparation of the beds, planting, subsequent management, watering, shading, saving seed, taking up, properties, &c., and also the sowing of seed and management of seedlings. We have received a considerable amount of pleasure and profit from a perusal, and we would advise amateurs who require information, to consult its pages.

## Notes and Queries.

We shall feel obliged by any of our readers answering questions under this head. Although we have no objection to answer as far as possible, still, if our friends will endeavour to afford instructions to their brother amateurs, we shall esteem it a favour.

ROSES.—A subcriber wishes to have a list of Roses, flowering in each month. Now this would be no small affair. There are some hundreds of these beautiful flowers, but we have long preferred to adopt those which are *continuously in bloom*, and discard all that merely flower a month or so, and are blank the rest of the year. We know there are many noble varieties, that only bloom a month, and people who exhibit in June, ought to grow them; but there are also many which begin in June or July, and never fairly leave off, such as Devoniensis, Fellenberg, Celemine, Souvenir de la Malmaison, Madame Desprez, Geant des Batailles, &c.

A correspondent writes for a list of the best continuous-blooming Roses. The following is from *Glenny's Garden Almanack:—Constant Bloomers.*—Cymedor, crimson, tinged with purple; Duchesse de Montpensier, delicate pink, satin-like; Duchess of Sutherland, pink, of beautiful form; Prince of Wales, rosy lilac, shaded; Armosa, delicate pink, small; Pompone Parfait, purple: Comice de Seine et Marne, cherry red, shaded; Leveson Gower, rose colour, large; Madame Angelina, cream colour; Queen of Bourbons, most beautiful fawn; Aimee Vibert, pure white; Fellenberg, bright crimson; Miss Glegg, pure white, centre tinged; Goubault, brilliant rose colour, large; Maria Leonida, white, tinged with pink; Blairii No. 2, pale blush; Paul Ricaut, bright crimson.—*Constant Bloomers, Show Flowers.*—Baronne Prevost, bright

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rose colour, large; Geant des Batailles, most vivid scarlety crimson; Souvenir de la Malmaison, creamy flesh blush; Comte de Paris, deep flesh-coloured blush; Devoniensis, creamy white and straw.——*Continuous-blooming Roses of Peculiar Character.*—Celemine, pink rose, fine form; Jaune Desprez, rich fawn, yellow centre; Archduke Charles, or the Changeable Rose, pink to crimson; Cramoisie superieure, brilliant velvety scarlet; Buret, carmine, shaded; Safrano, bright apricot colour.——*Climbing Roses of Peculiar Character.*—Gloire de Rosamene, scarlety crimson, brilliant.——*Continuous-blooming Climbing Roses of Peculiar Character.*—Prudence Rœser, pink, with fawn centre; Aimee Vibert scandens, similar, but a climber; La Biche, white, centre flesh.——*Noisettes.*—Madame Masset and Madame Schultz.

A Scotch Pansy Grower inquires if now is a suitable time to give a Pansy bed a good dressing of superphosphate of lime, as recommended at page 91 of last year's volume. He may now successfully apply it, either dry or in a diluted state, over the bed or ridges.

## Calendar of Operations.

AURICULAS.—From the 12th to the 20th, weather permitting, the pots should all be taken out of the frame, and put into a shed, or some other convenient place, where they may all be examined one by one, the green mould taken off the top, and the pots filled up with a little sweetened stuff, previously prepared for the purpose. Before putting them back into the frames, the shelves should be well swept and cleaned. The lights must be kept shut at night, and a thickness of matting laid on, until the end of the month, but not later, unless the frost be very severe.—JOHN HEPWORTH, *Lea Bridge, Leyton.*

AZALEA INDICA.—If the system of management laid down in my article, page 31, has been followed up, some of the specimens will, by this time, be in flower, while others will be fast swelling. Those in flower should be placed in the warmest part of the conservatory or show house, and those with plump buds should be kept in a moist humid atmosphere of from sixty to seventy degrees, by day, and from fifty to fifty-five, by night.—EDWARD CLEETON, *gardener to E. Holland, Esq., M.P.*

CARNATIONS AND PICOTEES.—These plants being in their winter quarters, require but little attention, except giving air on all occasions when fine, as much depends upon having strong plants to withstand the easterly winds in April, and if this caution be neglected, they will neither make increase nor bloom well. Some writers advise covering with mats, in severe



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weather. I never practised this, nor do I think it necessary, as they are perfectly hardy. Remove all decayed foliage, and if the soil in the pots be dry, water very sparingly, but avoid, it altogether, if possible.—J. SLATER, *Cheetham Hill, Manchester.*

CHRYSANTHEMUMS.—As all border plants are now cut down, after they have done blooming, care must be taken to watch the tender varieties that break and throw up their suckers very late. I again beg to remind growers of the necessity of placing some slight covering round the roots, or they will most likely lose their plants, if this precaution is neglected, particularly the pompones, which are more tender than the others. If you have the convenience for placing one of a sort in a cold pit or frame, to make sure of stock, by no means neglect it, as success in the autumn depends entirely on the care taken during the winter months. They are very easy of management in spring, as, by having an old plant to cut from, scores may be struck for common use. If steps have not yet been taken to start a few of the best varieties, as specimens, for pots or borders, no time should be lost in doing so, or fine large blooms cannot be expected in autumn; neither will the pompones bear so many stops, nor be above half so large and bushy. I have tried both ways, and find November-starting the best, as then you may do as you like with them in spring. One specimen of good habit, and well flowered is worth twenty shabby plants, and the only way to have this is by early starting and stopping. The same with the large varieties, only give plenty of air and water, when the weather permits, all through the winter, but stop none but pot plants, if you wish for very large and good shaped blooms.—S. BROOME, *Temple Gardens.*

CINERARIAS.—Specimen plants will require attention in carefully regulating the shoots and leaves, to ensure a compact and well-formed head of bloom. This must be often attended to, as the plants will be in full growth, It may be done in the way recommended for Geraniums. The plants must never be allowed to get dry, if it is desired to preserve the best foliage. Occasionally water with weak liquid manure. About the end of the month, repot all late-blooming plants. Fumigate occasionally.—JOHN DOBSON, *Woodlands Nurseries, Isleworth.*

CUCUMBERS.—The production of the Cucumber at an early season of the year is an object of considerable emulation amongst amateurs, and there are some who continue to grow them all the year round. The beginning of this month is a very good time to commence the rearing of the plants, either upon beds composed of dung and leaves, mixed, or upon faggots, to be heated by means of dung linings. For this purpose, such a quantity of good fresh dung should be procured as will be sufficient, after being fermented, to form a bed, about five feet high at the back and four feet in front, upon which to place a one-light frame, which will be sufficient for the purpose

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of rearing seedling Cucumbers. The dung for this purpose should be under the process of fermentation a sufficient time to allow the fiery heat to pass off. It should be frequently turned and well mixed, so that the whole body will heat equally, when put up into the bed. In building the seed bed, the dung should be well shaken with a fork, and regularly laid up, one course above another, beating it with the back af the fork, but not treading it with the feet. When finished, put on the frame and lights, and cover with a double mat, to draw up the heat. When this is sufficiently up, let the surface of the bed be turfed over, with the grassy side downwards, and then cover the whole, the thickness of six or eight inches, with any light mould, or rotten tan, upon which to place the pots with the seeds. As the heat rises, the pots or pans may be plunged deeper, or kept on the surface, according to its strength. The frame will also require covering every night, with mats, either single or double, according to the temperature of the bed. No air need be admitted until the steam and the young leaves of the plants appear. Care must then be taken to tilt up the end of the sash, to allow the steam to pass freely off. Sometimes it is necessary to leave a a little air on all night. If it be frosty, or there is a very cold wind, the ends of the mats should be allowed to hang over the opening, that the air may be broken, and not blow with force upon the tender plants. The temperature may range from sixty-five to seventy-five degrees. If mice abound, which is very often the case, the seed pots should be covered with a piece of flat glass, or a bell-glass, but the covering should be removed when the plants are well above the soil. If the soil in the pots appear dry, give a little tepid water, but not too much at a time. As the plants begin to grow, admit air at all times, when the sun shines, to prevent them being drawn up weakly; and uncover the frame in the morning as soon as possible after sunrise. When the seed leaves are about an inch broad, which they will be in a week or ten days after their appearance, they are then ready to transplant into the nursing pots, to acquire strength for planting out on the bed where they are to produce their fruit. The nursing pots and a quantity of light dry soil, consisting of well-decomposed dung and leaves, and sandy loam, should be put in the frame the day before they are used, to bring the whole to an equal temperature, that the young plants may experience as little check as possible in their removal. The pots should be about four inches in diameter, at the top, and two plants may be put in each. The deeper the young plants are set in the pots the better, as they will push out roots all the way up the stem, from the original roots to the surface of the soil. After planting, give a gentle watering, with tepid water, from a fine rose pot. By the end of the month, the plants will be fairly established in their nursing pots, and when the shoots or runners appear between the two rough leaves, they will require stopping, or carefully pinching off, between the

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finger and thumb. This stopping, as it is termed amongst gardeners, will cause the plants to grow more stocky and strong, and to emit other shoots, which will show fruit. As the heat in the bed declines, linings must be applied, back and front, or all round the bed, if thought requisite, to keep up the temperature.—JOHN BURTON, *Oxton.*

DAHLIAS must be constantly kept cool and dry, and should be examined, to see if they are rotting. Any that are in danger, may be potted, as they will frequently start a shoot, previous to rotting altogether.—RICHARD EDWARDS, *Nuthall.*

EPACRIS.—If these fine winter and spring-flowering plants have been systematically cared for, during the past year, and their wood well ripened, they will now begin to reward the cultivator for the labour bestowed on them, by producing blossoms almost as numerous as the leaves, and as they will, in many cases, be placed in the show house, they should be kept in the coolest place. Admit air when favourable, but by all means set your face against north-easters. Water cautiously, but thoroughly, and give no more until wanted. Keep the temperature from forty to forty-five degrees, at night, with a rise of five or ten degrees of sun heat, by day.—E. CLEETON, *gardener to E. Holland, Esq., M.P., Dumbleton.*

FORCING DEPARTMENT.—In following directions in practical horticulture, allowance must be made for difference of situation and soils; and climatic influences too have a material bearing on the subject, inasmuch as no list of temperatures can with any degree of certainty be laid down. Therefore, in all cases of artificial forcing, judgment and foresight, such as gradually raising or lowering the temperature, in accordance with the weather outside, will be requisite. Two thermometers should be invariably used, and the one outside should be self-registering. If due attention be paid to the rise and fall of the thermometer, less fuel will be required, and a more healthy and satisfactory state of things will be the result. Ventilation too is of the very first importance, and if it be not properly attended to, disappointment will certainly ensue. I would here draw attention to the utility of ventilators being placed opposite the pipes or flues. The air being warmed on its entrance into the house, the ventilators, which are hung on pivots, may at all times, or nearly so, be left open without much fear, and a constant supply of fresh air into the house is of the greatest importance. The situation and aspect of the early forcing house, and also its proper construction, should be carefully considered. The old-fashioned sharp-pointed roofs do not agree with the practice of the present day; but these matters and the making of the Vine and Peach borders will be treated of at a future time. In giving directions, in the shape of a monthly calendar, it will be requisite to mention that they will be chiefly applied to the forcing of the Grape, the Peach, the Nectarine, the Strawberry, and Fig, and also Grapes in pots; all which

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the writer has successfully grown and forced together, in *one* house, for some years. Presuming that the early forcing house has been thoroughly cleaned, all the glass and woodwork nicely washed, and the brickwork brushed down with a hard brush, and then twice painted over with lime wash, in which some size or Russian tallow should be mixed, to prevent it being washed off with syringing, see that the heating apparatus, and all pipes, flues, and chimneys connected therewith, be thoroughly cleaned. Fill the pit with two-thirds leaves and one-third horse dung. Where leaves are not to be had, horse dung will do. If not already done, prune the Vines, Peaches, and Figs. Introduce the first batch of Black Prince Strawberries, which should have been grown in forty-eight-sized pots; also Figs and Vines in pots. Keep the house closed the first month, without using much fire; the material in the pit will give off a nice sweet moist heat, with a portion of ammonia, which will assist the swelling of the buds. The leaves should be turned over every ten days. The night temperature might begin at forty-five degrees, allowing a rise of five to seven degrees, according to the weather, and any amount of sun heat. If the Vines are planted outside, see that they are thoroughly protected from wet and frost. Glass frames are best for this purpose, though wooden shutters, or canvass will do, if heating materials are used. Look to the stems of the Vines, where they pass through the front wall, or near pipes, or flues, as they are apt to get too dry. Moisten (sparingly at first) with the syringe, and water of the same temperature as the house, the stems of the Vines; and keep the part outside well secured with haybands.—M. Busby, F.H.S.

Fruit Garden.—Pruning and nailing such things as Plums, Pears, and Apples, should be got forward, whenever the weather permits. Apricots should also be looked to, during the present month, before the buds swell too much. Peaches and Nectarines had better be let alone for the present. My practice with these is to unnail them in October, secure the branches from being blown about by the wind, and let them remain loose as late as I can in spring, to avoid, as far as possible, the danger from frost. Gooseberries and Currants must be pruned; but, with regard to the Gooseberry, my Lancashire friends must excuse me,—I grow for quantity, not for size, and am not at all partial to the knife with these trees, as too much use of it only produces a superabundance of wood, and but little fruit. All planting should have been done by this time, considering the fine autumn we have had. The longer these operations are delayed the less the chances of success. Where required, a good dressing of loam to fruit borders, will be found superior to manure.—Wm. Shipley, *Westbury, Wilts.*

Fuchsias.—If it is desired to have either old or young plants in flower early, the plants must be started early in the month and kept continually in a growing state. The old plants should

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be repotted, and encouraged by liberal waterings and an increased temperature. Cuttings struck in the autumn should be potted without delay, if not already done, into some good soil, and repotted as soon as the pots are full of roots. Cuttings may be put in according to the stock required.—JOHN DOBSON, *Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth.*

HEATHERY.—Pick off the flowers from the plants going out of bloom, and cut them back, ready for another start. Those in flower and those coming into flower should be kept in the warmest part of the house. Water sparingly, guarding against extremes. Give air freely. If a little can be let in all night, so much the better. If fire heat is used, consider it a necessary evil, and do not attempt to maintain a night temperature of more than fifty degrees. Continue the training of specimens.—E. CLEETON, *gardener to E. Holland. Esq., M.P., Dumbleton.*

HOLLYHOCKS, if potted in October, had better remain in the greenhouse, or cold frame, kept from damp and wet, but give all the air possible. Avoid placing them in heat, as it tends to generate disease, and the nature of the plant resists it. Remove all decayed leaves. A hand-glass, with a moveable top, to be taken off, to admit air, on all favourable occasions, is a desirable thing to place over the plants in the borders, to shelter them from the inclemency of the weather.—WM. CHATER, *Nurseries, Saffron Walden.*

KITCHEN AND COTTAGE GARDEN.—Sow a few early Peas, Daniel O'Rourke, or Sangster's No. 1, and, towards the latter end of the month, make another sowing of the same sorts, with Champion of England and Ringwood Marrow. I find it an excellent plan to sow a quantity in thumb pots, for the earliest crop; they can then be protected in any spare corner, or garden frame. When about two inches high, I make a trench, turn them out of the pots, and plant each bunch about six inches apart. Last year, I gathered full ten days earlier from rows treated in this way than from those sown in the open ground. Plant a few Mazagan and Long-pod Beans. Parsnips may be sown towards the latter end of the month. Place pots and a quantity of fermenting material over Rhubarb and Seakale. I think the latter vegetable ought to be far more extensively grown by cottagers than it is at present, as it is not only an excellent vegetable at this time of the year, but, to my mind, when well managed, is really profitable. Prepare Potatoes for planting, by spreading them out thinly, to allow them to sprout a little; and for forcing in frames, place a quantity in forty-eight-sized pots, one in each pot. These may be stowed away in any place where they can have light and be safe from frost, and, when an inch or two high, may be turned into a moderate hotbed. Towards the latter end of the month, sow a few Short-top Radishes, in a sheltered spot, and a few Wood's Early Frame Radishes, on a slight hotbed. Give air on all favourable opportunities, in frosty weather, to Cauli-

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flowers under hand-glasses. Wheel manure on to the ground, get your Pea sticks trimmed ready for use, and look to everything calculated to forward operations, during the busy time now approaching.—Wm. Shipley, *Westbury, Wilts.*

Pansies.—The directions for this month are few, yet important. Both in the frames and out-of-doors slugs are very busy, and must be carefully watched and destroyed. Remove all decayed foliage, and give abundance of air to those in frames, at every favourable opportunity. In frosty weather, protection with mats will be necessary. Water but seldom. Prepare the soil for the final repotting, towards the end of the month. Plants out of doors should be looked over, to secure any that may have been disturbed by wind or frost.—John Dobson, *Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth.*

Pelargoniums.—These are universal favourites, and are unrivalled for decoration. To grow them successfully, several things are necessary,—plenty of light and air, and cleanliness. There is little art in growing them, though the splendid specimens seen at the London exhibitions tend to make people believe that there are some secrets which the growers withhold from the public. In the cultivation of the plants exhibited by us, I can affirm that nothing has been withheld. As the present number of the *Midland Florist* commences a new volume, I would say to those who will follow the directions which I shall give from time to time, that the plants shall be a source of interest and beauty nine months in the year. If not in flower, the handsome foliage shall make up for it; for the beauty of the foliage is a source of pleasure to every cultivator. This month is a busy one with the Pelargonium, as the plants will begin to make rapid growth. Attention to tying out will be necessary, that light and air may be admitted to the centre of the plants, which will be the means of their gaining strength, and allowing every shoot to throw up its flower buds, without interruption. The plant may be regulated to any required form, by the use of sticks and matting, which should be tied round the pot, under the rim, and all the outside shoots may be carefully drawn down to it. For the centre of the plant, sticks must be used, avoiding, as much as possible, pushing them among the roots. After the plants are tied, give them a good watering, to settle the mould well about the roots The plants stopped back in December, for flowering in June, must be kept moderately dry, till the eyes are visible. They may then be repotted and well watered. Prepare the soil and get it into the house, that it may be of the same temperature as that in which the plants are growing. Remove yellow leaves as soon as they appear, but leave the stem to come off when ripe; for bear in mind that a shoot may be expected to start at the base, and take great care not to injure it. In watering the May plants, give sufficient to moisten the whole ball of earth.—John Dobson, *Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth.*

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POLYANTHUSES require cleaning, same as the Auricula, but will be quite as well, if left till the latter end of the month, or the beginning of February. At this time, plants may be potted afresh, with perfect safety.—JOHN HEPWORTH, *Lea Bridge-road, Leyton.*

RANUNCULUSES.—Among the earliest and most important operations in the culture of any flower, is the preparation of the compost in which it is to be grown or reared. This is the *foundation* work, and none should with confidence expect a superstructure of luxurious harmony or beauty, on an ill-conditioned basis. To those, therefore, who have the primary elements, loam and dung,—the former pulverised by turning and exposure, and the latter decomposed by fermentation and subsequent shiftings and mixings,—I would say, proceed to mix two-thirds loam and one-third dung, sufficient to form the substance of a bed, twelve inches deep, at least, and eighteen inches, if you can afford it. Make your bed, *without delay*, so as to give it a month or six weeks to settle, previous to planting. The Ranunculus requires a firm soil, and to help, in this particular, a newly-made bed, a fine day and a dry surface must be chosen, and the bed trodden, by laying on a plank, or board, and walking over it, from end to end. This plan may be resorted to where time has not been allowed for natural gravitating settlement. Another plan may be adopted by those who possess light and not very retentive soil, viz., to excavate the soil of the proposed bed fifteen inches deep, and prepare a tub of water and cow dung, stirred well together, to the consistence of cream; pour some of this mixture all over the bottom of the bed, then place in three inches of rich soil, pour over its surface more manure water, then repeat the layer of soil, and so on, adding manure water, till within three or four inches of the surface, which should be of loam, free from fresh manure. The subsoil moistenings will do something to make up for the absence of a naturally cool and retentive soil, where such is not possessed by the cultivator. Particular attention should be paid to the condition of the soil, and care should be taken not to stir or work it in weather wet enough to make it sticky and adhesive.—CAREY TYSO, *Wallingford.*

ROSES.—Look over the directions for the last two months, and if anything remain to be done, attend to it at once, that is, if the weather be favourable.——*Roses in Pots.*—Shorten and bring forward a few at a time, as wanted. Blooming plants and young stock now at rest keep dry and from sharp frosts, bearing in mind always, that the Rose, in whatever state or stage of growth, must have air, to keep it in a healthy condition.—HENRY DAVIES, *Great Stanmore.*

TULIPS.—Protect from excessive rain, snow, or frost. Mats thrown over the bed will answer every purpose, taking care to remove them at every favourable opportunity.—T. ALLESTREE, *Draycott, near Derby.*

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# Floriculture as a Science.

BY G. GLENNY, AUTHOR OF "THE PROPERTIES OF FLOWERS."

IN prosecuting the study and practice of floriculture, it is necessary to strive first to get rid of positive blemishes, which, when once overcome, makes a clear road. Now, as some of these belong, as it were, to the species, years may elapse before this first step is made. Let us take the Sweetwilliam as an instance. There were two natural blemishes which distinguished it, and which so marked its character, that we have gone over hundreds of seedlings, without being able to find one in which they were not conspicuous. First, the serrated edge; next, the flowers were all speckled, as if dust of white had been sprinkled over the surface. No matter whether dark or light, self-coloured or marked, there was the same mealy speckle or dust all over it. Mr. Hunt, of Wycombe, was the first who showed us a flower in which there was neither. How many thousands he must have raised and destroyed before he saw the first approach to a smooth edge and a clear flower, we may imagine, and when he did observe a step in the right direction, how eagerly he destroyed the others, none but he can know. But when he did see it, and saved the seed and sowed it, such is the disposition of the flower to run back to its natural state, that very few maintained his favourite points, and so, from year to year, by destroying the bad the instant they opened, and saving seed only from the best, he could, at length, exhibit forty or fifty varieties, all greatly improved, and some as perfect as need be; but those who were lucky enough to get his seed had no more right to expect all perfect than they had to expect that the pips of a Golden Pippin would bring Golden Pippin Apple trees. They would get, in a pinch of seed, ten or a dozen, perhaps, very beautiful, and the rest going back. Well, if they desired to keep up the race, they should have instantly destroyed all that were worse, and propagated, like Pinks, all the best. Saving the seed also from the best, they should have



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sowed again and again, and selected the best, and destroyed the others, until they found themselves in possession of a complete collection, which they might name and perpetuate, as we do all good florists' flowers. But what was done? Mr. Hunt generously made a present of his years of labour to one nurseryman, who sowed, and neglected the first great duty of destroying the bad, and fancied he had nothing to do but let all grow together, and then the seed of his good ones was completely spoiled, and he allowed it all to run back, until whoever bought seedlings or seed of Mr. Hunt's Sweetwilliams was disappointed. In all these proceedings, the destruction of the worst should have been instantaneous. The flower ought not to have been allowed to open before the root was pulled up and thrown away, and his best should have been numbered, and piped or layered for increase, until he could muster a good collection, and then he would have known what he was sending out. All that was required then, would have been to select none that were not up to the mark, that is, smooth on the edge, large in the flower, dense in the colour, and the more bright and distinct the marking the better. It is a fortunate thing that Mr. Hunt did not part with all his stock, for, under bad management, all his labour seemed to be thrown away, and people complained that Mr. Hunt's Sweetwilliams were rubbish. However, we had the pleasure to see, in his own hands, that he has not allowed them to retrograde, although we do not know whether he intends to let them out or not. It is not to be expected that a private gentleman will be at the trouble and pains to propagate Sweetwilliams, and send out plants, and if he sends out seed, people must not expect what is next to impossible, that is, they must not look for all perfect flowers. If, in a pinch of seed, they get from one hundred to two hundred plants, and a dozen of them are fit to name and propagate, they must consider themselves fortunate, but if they let all the plants bloom, the seed of their best will be spoiled, and perhaps all run back. Let us take another flower that was brought right up to perfection by one man, a man who has been foully misrepresented in a trumpery work on the Hollyhock. We allude to the late Mr. Barron, of Saffron Walden, a first-class tradesman, a true florist, and one of the most liberal buyers in the kingdom, one who never haggled for the price of a good Tulip or Ranunculus. The Hollyhock was a gay but very flimsy flower, the petals so thin that they could not be either of a bright or dense colour, because the very best were transparent. Mr. Barron imagined that if the thin petals could be superseded by thick ones, and the centres produced firm and close, the Hollyhock would be a noble florists' flower, and on his sending us a dozen blooms, we saw at once that he had accomplished his object. We advised him to send out sets of twelve, at five guineas, and pods of seed, at five shillings. His successors had nothing to do but save seed, and propagate the best. Mr. Chater was the first

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to show in advance. The Hollyhock does not incline to run back, the seed comes very like the parent, if well saved, and, as Mr. Barron had cleared the way, and people started with good varieties, they could not very well go wrong. It is difficult now to tell some of the new half-guinea ones from the old shilling ones. They are all good, and a pinch of seed that can be depended on will produce a collection good enough for any garden purpose, and probably a dozen or more fit to propagate. But it must not be expected that the venders of half-guinea flowers will sell the seed that would produce the best; it is not very likely a man would sell a hundred seeds for a shilling, that might bring varieties that would hurt his own trade. People who raise seedlings to improve their stock of novelties, well know that some of the very best are difficult to seed, while the hundreds of seedlings that are not good enough to propagate, yield seed by the bushel, that will sell well to the seed shops, and in packets. Amateurs and young beginners, who want to get into stock with any florists' flower, cannot do worse than go to a famous raiser, for seed, unless they can find one who loves everybody better than himself. Go to any private person, who grows a good collection, but who does not raise seedlings, and then, if you get a pinch, you will have some chance of a few good varieties. They may be like flowers that are already known and out, but they will be none the worse for that. We could find half-a-dozen so nearly alike, that the distinction is too slight to be of use in a garden. There is still plenty of room for additional thickness and firmness in the guard petals, for many, even of the expensive ones, can hardly sustain their form. Thus we see that it scarcely matters what object is to be gained to improve a flower, the raiser must recognise the slightest approach to it, and act accordingly, but some courage is required to destroy hundreds for the sake of the few that are improvements. Annuals may be improved as well as perennials, but, except under particular circumstances, it is difficult to keep them pure. Double flowers are the most certain, because if the bee, or the fly, or wasp cannot get at the seed vessel, and the flower impregnates itself, they will come, for the most part, like the parent. Thus, the seed saved from the double blooms—we mean really double blooms—of the Balsam, will produce like the parent, but, as not one pod in twenty will swell, the quantity saved is very small. But when the plant gets exhausted, and many of the laterals are semidouble, why, we may gather it in abundance, and this is the seed that is sold in quantities by one half the trade, and palmed upon the public as very superior, because the flowers of a dozen or two are exhibited. Let any gentleman or gentleman's gardener save from the most double blooms, on the middle stem of a Balsam, and if he can only get a single pod, let him keep it for his own sowing, and then, after the flowers have come semidouble, save a pod from those, and we warrant he will know the difference,

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and be able to account for the rubbish sent out by people who can nevertheless show, out of thousands grown for market, a few tidy plants. However, with regard to annuals, people are not so anxious to bestow their labour, because they cannot name and propagate a collection, to be certain, yet the purity of some kinds of vegetable seed shows that much can be done, and if it can be accomplished with vegetables, surely much may be done with flowers. The most extraordinary flower, which is only valued for its doubleness, is the Stock, a flower which, when double, has lost its organs of generation, and appears to be formed by a sort of plethora. Every flower is monstrous, and, so far as we have been able to form an opinion, the whole vigour of the single flower must be thrown into very few pods of seed, and then the progeny must be grown vigorously to help it on. According to some, the doubleness is a disease. Be it so; we hope nearly all our Stocks may continue to be taken ill in good time to bloom double. In an experiment upon the yellow Stock, when we had about two dozen single among more than two hundred double, we cut in the plants, as soon as eight or ten pods were set, and prevented any further growth or bloom. The next season, we could not hear of a dozen single ones, among all the seed we distributed. This year, we are trying another experiment. A dozen very brilliant scarlet Stocks were given to us, and they all proved single; we saved these the same, and if we should get a few double ones among them, we shall be rather confirmed in our notion, that this plan has something to do with causing double flowers; but, so far are we from thinking doubleness a disease, that we firmly believe it possible to starve a Stock into singleness, that would, with good culture, be double, because we do know that vigorous growth is not favourable to fruiting. We trust this subject will be taken up by others, because, although we have founded our opinions upon practice in all its shapes, we do know that "in a multitude of counsel there is wisdom."

## Ferns and Fern Growing.

THE plants called Ferns, or Fillices, in consequence of their beautiful forms, have long had claims on the public attention; but, till within the last four or five years, they were comparatively neglected. Now, however, almost all those who have any pretension to taste in gardening, have recognized their beauty, and they are allowed to grace the scenery of the garden,

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same as they grace the beautiful wilds of nature. Ever since what has been called the natural style of gardening came into vogue, the landscape gardener has cried out, "imitate nature." Yet how few have followed the maxim; even those who have attempted to copy nature in her modest moods and beautiful aspects, have often spoilt the whole by some attempt at fantastical display, or startling effect. Let us hope that a better education, and more schooling amongst the beauties of nature, will lead to more satisfactory results. The attention at present bestowed on Ferns is a proof we are on the right tack. A portion of mankind has discovered elegance and grace in things that had previously been neglected; they have found that beauty can exist without rouge, and loveliness without brilliancy. In saying this, I would not be supposed in the least degree to disparage the cultivation of flowers; on the contrary, I wish to heighten their charms, by the addition of other graces. What I desire is, that beauty, of whatever kind, in whatever place or thing, should be allowed to exercise its full power, to delight, ennoble, and beautify the mind of man.

As Ferns have not yet occupied a fair share of the pages of the *Midland Florist*, I purpose giving you a few pages on the subject. My object will be to notice some of the more prominent species and varieties, with observations on their habits and peculiarities, modes of culture, and the decorative purposes to which they may be applied. I will commence with the hardy species, and this paper shall be devoted to the Hartstongue (Scolopendrium vulgaro, Asplenium scolopendrum of Linnæus, Scolopendrium officinarum of Swartz). It was called Phyllitis, by Ray and other old authors, but Mr. Newman has adopted the old name, and calls it Phyllitis scolopendrium. This Fern was formerly used in medicine, hence the name officinarum. Gerard tells us, in 1597, that "It doth open the hardnesse and stoppings of the spleen and liuer, and all other griefs proceeding of oppilations or stoppings whatsoever." It is a fine evergreen Fern, quite distinct from all other



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British species, equal in point of beauty to the Birds-nest Fern of stoves (Asplenium nidus), and certainly far more interesting in many respects than that species. In dry and exposed situations, it grows small and nearly upright; but in damp and shady situations, its fronds are frequently two or three feet in length, drooping on every side, in graceful and elegant curves. It is found in almost every part of England, and in some calcareous districts, very abundant and fine. I have seen it very large and fine, near the dropping well, at Knaresborough, in Yorkshire; in the deep clefts of natural pavements, above Malham in Craven; also in Elks Wood, near Ingleton; and in 1852, it was growing in rich profusion, amongst the fallen rubbish, in what appeared once to have been the dining room of the first Prince of Wales; but I have been informed that this singular and interesting habitat has suffered materially from the depredations of visiters. In this curious situation, the Ivy and the Hartstongue seemed to vie with each other in the richness of their tints, and the luxuriance of their growths, as if both were determined to give grace and beauty to the neglected stronghold of North Wales.

The treatment of this Fern, under ultivation, is extremely simple. With good drainage at the roots, abundance of decayed vegetable matter in the compost, deep shade, and a moist atmosphere, it becomes a most magnificent object, not for a day or a week, but throughout the whole year. In the winter months, its fine rich fronds maintain their verdure, in spite of the storms or cold, as if they were sempiternal. The shady cavernous portions of rockwork are the best localities in which it can be placed, with the Ivy, Vinca minor, Vinca major, or Arbutus uva ursi, hanging from above, as fitting associates.

In referring to the varieties of this plant, I may observe, that no other Fern has sported so many varieties as the Scolopendrium. Some of these are of the most extraordinary and protean character, growing as if they were determined to be as abnormal as possible,

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and like anything but the original species. It is perfectly astonishing, to witness the freaks they play, under cultivation. Some of them almost seem as if the vital principle had run wild, and had escaped from the regular laws of vegetable development. Upwards of sixty varieties have received names from the British pteridologists. Many of these are extremely variable in their character, but many others are permanent and regular in their development, and have all the characteristics of species. They bear spores, and can be reproduced from them, with as slight variations from the typical form as the seeds of any other species of plant. The variety

*Multifidum* has the ends of the fronds divided or multifid. This is a very old form, and was cultivated as early as the time of Gerard. It bears fruit and can be reproduced.

*Crispum* is a very beautiful and interesting kind. The two edges of the frond are undulated, crisped, or frilled, exactly like the cap borders of our ancient dames. It is very regular and constant under cultivation, but has not yet been detected in a state of fertility.

*Ramosum Major.*—This is a strong-growing variety, each stipes dividing into two, and throwing up fronds closely approximating to the normal form. It is quite constant in cultivation, and fertile.

*Ramosum Minor.*—Much like the last, but smaller.

*Laciniatum, or Endivifolium.*—This is one of the most strange deviations from the normal type; instead of being smooth on the edge, like the species, it is deeply cut, laciniated, and lobed. The two bottom lobes being much the largest, give the frond a deltoid character. It is very constant under artificial management, and soriferous.

*Polyschides.*—This is a very old variety, and appears to have been known to the celebrated Ray. It is much smaller than the species, seldom exceeding nine inches in height, with narrow fronds, somewhat corrugated and incised on the edges. It makes a compact and elegant plant, is constant under cultivation, and fertile.

*Polyschides Nivo* is much like the last, but smaller, and bears viviparous bulbule on the upper surface of the frond, which ultimately become plants. It is constant under cultivation, but I have not yet seen it bear sori. It is very rare.

*Proliferum.*—This variety is also rare, and quite of pigmy dimensions, seldom being more than two inches in height, of thick and leathery texture, somewhat ciliated on the edges, with two excurrent veins on the inferior surface of the fronds. I have not yet seen it in a state of fertility.

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*Crista-galli.*—The lower portions of the fronds of this variety, are much like the species, but near the end, they burst out into a reduplication, or succession of folds or plates, something like a cockscomb, hence the name. It is constant in cultivation, and fertile.

*Contractum.*—This is nearly like the preceding, except that the fronds near the end become contracted, and then break out into a reduplication of multifid apices. Its range of variation from the typical form is sometimes considerable. Like the last, it is fertile.

I have a few more observations to make on some of the more prominent varieties of Scolopendrium; but, lest I should occupy too much space, and tire the patience of your readers, they shall be reserved to another opportunity.

S.

*Todmorden.*

## Good Pears.

I HAVE already, Mr. Editor, given you a select list of Apples, both for culinary and dessert purposes, and I now send you a short list of the best Pears. There are so many varieties in cultivation, that there is some difficulty in selecting. Some sorts do well in one soil, while in another soil they will do little or no good; therefore, although I give those I consider to be the best, still, where soils differ much, the planter must use his own discretion. I will begin with the earliest varieties.

*Jargonelle.*—This is a nice variety, of large size, not of first-rate quality, but being ripe about the middle of August, it is the best at the season. Tree of good habit. I have had some fine fruit on a dwarf tree, but it deserves a south wall, which is the best to bring it to perfection.

*Aston Town* is a tree of vigorous growth, attaining a large size as a standard. In this way I have seen very fine fruit grown in Derbyshire. It is of medium size, and in season in October.

*Gansell's Bergamot.*—A very large and handsome fruit, in season in October. Tree well deserving an east or west wall. I have gathered very fine fruit from dwarfs. This variety is not a great bearer.

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*Marie Louise.*—Known as one of the best Pears in cultivation. Fruit large, of the finest quality, and in season in October. Often recommended as a standard, or for a north aspect, but. with me, last season, not any of the fruit from an espalier was fit for use, while from an east wall, it was really excellent. The tree is of fine growth, a sure bearer, and the fruit hanging well on the tree.

*Pass Colmar.*—Fruit of medium size, in season in December. Will do well as an espalier, but well deserves an east or west wall.

*Buerre Rance.*—Fruit large, of good quality, and in season in December. Tree of very good habit, being hardy and a free bearer. One tree (an espalier), with me, produced two hundred fine fruit, during the past season.

*Duchesse d'Angouleme* is one of the largest, if not the largest, dessert Pears we have. The fruit is rather coarse, but not to be despised. Ripe in November. The tree is a good bearer, and succeeds well with me as an espalier, but well deserves a west wall, when the fruit will become monstrous in size.

*Easter Buerre.*—Fruit of medium size, of good quality, in season in January. Tree hardy and a good bearer, either as a dwarf or espalier, but well deserves an east or west wall.

*Buerre Diel.*—Fruit very large and rich, and in season in October. Succeeds well with me as an espalier, but might require a wall in the midland counties.

*Williams's Bon Cretien.*—Fruit of medium size and very rich. Ripe in September. Tree a good bearer, and succeeds well on an east wall.

*Knight's Monarch.*—Fruit large, of good quality, and ripe in December. Tree very hardy, succeeding well either as a standard or a dwarf; in fact, it is one of our very best hardy Pears.

*Louise Bonne of Jersey.*—Fruit large, of first-rate quality, and ripe in September. Tree hardy, and succeeds well either as a standard, dwarf, or espalier, but well deserves a west wall.

To these might be added a great many other excellent varieties, but those I have described will be quite sufficient for a small garden. I hope, in a future paper, to make a selection of plums, cherries, &c.

With regard to the Apple and Pear crop of 1857, although there were on many trees an average quantity, and the stock of cider in these parts has increased, I cannot say that the crops were generally good ; but how we shall be in 1858 depends on the spring, as the late hot summer and fine open autumn have well ripened the wood. I think, on examination of the trees, I never

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saw a more promising show of bloom buds. To those, therefore, who intend thinning the trees, the present will be a very appropriate season, and they will thereby benefit both the tree and the fruit; and if we are as fortunate as appearances at present indicate, we shall, next season, be favoured with plentiful crops.

WILLIAM SHIPLEY.

*Heywood Gardens, Westbury, Wilts.*

## On the Encouragement of Floriculture.

THE age in which we live is philanthropic in an eminent degree. Schemes of various kinds are brought forward and pressed upon public attention, having for their object the moral or physical benefit of the labouring classes,—many of them, no doubt, with considerable success. All great social improvement and elevation must be slow, and, from the very nature of the case, a love for the good and beautiful cannot be formed at once, it must be the growth of years; and in no case is this more so than with respect to the cultivators of flowers. Although every child, whether town or country bred, will utter a wild cry of delight at the first sight of a bank of Primroses, or the first appearance of the modest Daisy, in the opening year, yet, as life advances, this taste wants developing and strengthening, and there must be opportunities and means for its cultivation, or there can be little hope of success. As well might we expect the population of a town or village to grow up scholars, without schools or books, as that they should become florists, without gardens or the means, however humble, of forming acquaintance with the fair and beautiful forms of nature's handiwork. How many hours of pure and healthful enjoyment are lost to those who are deprived of the little plot of ground, or even the enclosed space on the balcony, called by the high-sounding name of

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greenhouse! None but those who have felt that loss can adequately judge of the greatness of the sacrifice. And it is by these means, small though they seem, that the taste for flowers is formed, and therefore it is of importance that successive and sustained efforts should be made to simplify and extend the means of encouraging and increasing their cultivation.

I have a strong conviction that every periodical that finds its way into the cottage or the hall, is an harbinger of higher and nobler results than the writers of its articles dream of, or would allow themselves to expect; but there is yet room for effort, an ample field and fair promise, and I hope the time is gone by when the possessor of any special knowledge would think that he acted wisely in withholding it from his neighbour.

I have been led to this train of thought by the remarks made by J. J. Blackburne, Esq., of Hale, at the meeting of the horticultural and agricultural society of that village. When addressing the winners of prizes, he urged upon them the importance of carefully selecting good kinds of flowers for cultivation, inasmuch as they required no more skill or care than common or poor varieties, which, when coupled with the money value when brought to market, made no inconsiderable difference in favour of a good selection. I may here state, that this village is another example of what may be done, by encouragement given to the working classes, to cultivate flowers, instances of which have been brought before the public, by a contemporary, and, in this case, these efforts have been attended by as marked success as those already referred to.

Let me suggest, then, to those who have the framing of the lists of prizes for the coming season, to make those lists as comprehensive as possible, so as to include all, even the humblest grower of a few but highly prized favourites; there is no danger of the more wealthy and extensive horticulturist finding no place in the scale, but it will require care and watchfulness to prevent him taking the lion's share, to the exclusion of his poorer neighbour.

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Another point in which considerable improvement may be made is, increased room, to prevent, as far as possible, that over-crowding, so extremely disagreeable on a hot and sultry day. As an instance, showing the necessity of this, I might refer to the Liverpool exhibition, in contrast with the Chiswick. At Liverpool, we had one large tent, crowded to excess, and, to add to the discomfort, as soon as it was filled, a heavy shower came on, and drove all those who were outside, waiting an opportunity to enter, to force their way in, and pack the limited space so full, that it was impossible to move about, or examine any of the objects of the show. I believe that hundreds entered the tent who did not see one-fourth of the things exhibited, and went away bespattered with mud, and, in some cases, drenched by the rain coming through the tent. In striking contrast with this, at Chiswick, a number of tents, and the large conservatory, and other houses, were employed on the occasion, and the objects were distributed, giving space and opportunity to examine everything of interest, which greatly added to the pleasure and comfort of the visiters.

I think I scarcely need to apologize for the little things to which I have referred in this notice, as success in whatever we undertake depends mainly on little things, and trust it may prove a word in season to those who may have the management of floral exhibitions.

J. TYNAN.

*Liverpool.*

## Cultivation of the Pine Apple.

IN offering a few remarks on the culture of the Pine Apple, I will first endeavour to show the propriety of adopting a system to which I intend to draw the attention of your readers. In doing so, I will be as brief as possible, in pointing out what I consider to be

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the natural habits of this plant, and offer a few remarks on the different modes of growing it. The study and trial of various experiments in its culture, have led me to entertain views differing very much from my practice in former years, and which may also not be in accordance with the opinions of some of my more enlightened brethren of the present time. Nevertheless, if we are able to prove, by the practical results of many of our best gardeners, that a simplified, more economical, and expeditious mode of culture has been discovered, then I trust that any observations which I may make, in comparing the merits of the various systems, will be interpreted by the readers of the *Midland Florist* in no worse light than as a necessary procedure, in fairly discussing the subject in hand.

It is my opinion, that the multitudinous routine character of the old system, which we Pine growers advocated in former years, is altogether too artificial and of too laborious a tendency for the present enlightened gardening era. In proof that this opinion is well founded, I need only state, that many of our best Pine growers have advantageously abandoned it. Some, it is true, have only in part adopted the new, or what I term the permanent system, by in a great measure dispensing with tan, &c., and planting out in the open bed of compost. Others, not having the convenience of tanks, hot water pipes, &c., fruit their Pines in pots, but have discovered the advantage of permanently retaining the old stool, in preference to succession plants. I may, moreover, state, that other parties are wholly carrying out the system I have so long advocated, by planting out into the open bed, and perfecting the fruit on suckers, attached to the old plant or stool. By the latter practice, the culture of the plant has become so simplified, that any person (hitherto denied the privilege, by the expensive mode of culture) with ordinary skill and moderate means, may now produce this king of fruits, to present among his family circle, at a trifle more expense than is incurred by rearing Cucumbers or Melons. I trust I shall not be charged with dogmatism



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in asserting that excellent Pines can be cultivated permanently in one house, unaided by succession houses, notwithstanding such a statement is practically opposed to all that has been said and written on its culture, from its first introduction into this country up to a very recent period. Nevertheless, if this practice can be demonstrated by facts—and surely "facts are stubborn things"—then, of course, the basis of a new system is laid, and we have arrived at a new era in its culture. It is, however, a question of doubt whether the Pine can be grown to as great perfection in the open soil as in the bark bed. The latter, I know, has a tendency to promote the healthy secretions of the plant, by engendering nutritious gasses, and otherwise sweetening the atmosphere in the house; but let it be understood, that when the plants are grown in the open bed, a little new tan can be occasionally applied as a surface dressing, if found necessary. However, if we avail ourselves of the reported results of the different practices, we must come to the conclusion that the largest fruit has been grown without pots, in the open soil. As a proof, we need only mention Gunersby Castle, Trentham, Chatsworth, Worsley Hall, &c., leaving all minor places out of the question. The above brief remarks may be a sufficient proof that where a lively bottom heat can be maintained, by hot water pipes, &c. large fruit may be produced, without the aid of the tan bed. So far then as we have proceeded, it would appear that the natural system has already gained an ascendancy over the pot and bark bed. Allow me then to re-echo the triumph achieved over our old troubles of disrooting, potting, and repotting, and a host of other superfluities, the detail of which has occupied the heads and pens of some of our best gardeners of former days, while adding page to page, in treating of its culture, with practices decidedly too superficial for Pine growers of the present day. No person of moderate means would ever think of growing the Pine, were he to witness one of those periodical routines which our old dogmas on its treatment inculcated. A novice might easily per-

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ceive that a princely purse would be required to cultivate this prince of fruits. I have known to a certainty that where the gardener did not produce more than fifty or sixty fruit per annum, he had in charge two succession houses, with probably not less than two hundred plants, from the crown and small stock up to the strong succession, every one of which, through ignorance of their functions, had, at stated times, to pass through the common ordeal of erroneous treatment, little, if anything, better than that applied to the much-abused animal, the donkey. Whereas, by adopting the natural system, the plants can at once be planted out, and remain undisturbed for years, like other perennials. It has been stated by one of our best writers on gardening, that "the Pine is a perennial, bearing fruit once." Such an inference must have been drawn from the way in which it was then treated. I am now, however, prepared to state, from my own experience, and that of other Pine growers, that this plant is capable of producing a succession of suckers and fruit, for any period of time. I have in my possession, a letter, from a gardener, who has for many years practised what is termed the Hamiltonian system. He informs me, that he cut twenty-eight pounds of fruit from one plant of the Montserrat, in three years and six months, without it ever being disturbed, or shifted from the position in which it was first planted. He also states, that a plant of the same variety produced seven suckers, all of which fruited at the same time, and their united weight was sixteen pounds. In my opinion, no idea can be more irrational, no practice more erroneous, than tearing off the infant suckers from a healthy plant, merely because it has produced one solitary fruit. I would advise Pine growers to ponder well this practice of destroying the old stool, which is destined, as I believe, to redeem us from one of the most tedious and laborious processes belonging to the profession of a gardener. Yes; Pine growers know well with what anxious care and sweat of the brow these plants have been nursed, to be sufficiently strong to swell a fine fruit;

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how often their pendent leaves have been carefully bandaged, and with what solicitude they have been carried to and from the potting bench. And after all this and a great deal more untold labour, to consign them to the rubbish heap, without any apparent consideration as to their healthy appearance or further capabilities, is a proceedure which we gardeners ought to blush at.

The celebrated experimentalist, Mr. Knight, so far back as 1819, saw the irrationality of the old system, and astonished the gardeners by exhibiting a sucker making rapid progress on the old stool. I may also mention Mr. Dale of Brancepath Castle, who recorded facts about fruiting on the old stool, which most Pine growers were inclined to doubt.

[To be continued.]

JOSEPH HAMILTON.

*Botcherby.*

## My Stove.

VERY few who possess a stove value flowers as I do, I, with no room to spare, want bloom. Handsome foliage is all very well in its way, but I want something worth the firing, and although I could find a hundred handsome plants, whose flowers are very ephemeral, or of no importance, to fill up a large hothouse, every plant I have, in a small one, must do its duty in a floral way. I will just give, from time to time, a description of the few that I take pains with, because they reward me with some attraction, in the way of bloom.

EUPHORBIA JAQUINEFLORA.—One of the brightest of bright scarlets, in spikes of small stars, not larger than a Forget me not, but dazzling vermillion. This is a delicate plant, which bleeds so freely when cut or broken, that nine times out of ten, it dies back to the next joint. It is a difficult plant to grow in a handsome form, and we must begin with it very young. When a cutting is struck, and has grown two or three inches, the end

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must be pinched off, this will cause the side shoots to grow, and, when these have shot out from two to three inches, their ends must be pinched off. It requires shifting from one pot to another, as often as it fills the old one with roots, and all the branches must be checked, before they get too long, otherwise, the plant will soon grow out of form. When it has grown as bushy as you wish it, you may let them all grow for bloom, and a more beautiful subject does not exist.

EUPHORBIA SPLENDENS.—This grows as robust as a gooseberry bush, and is much fuller of strong thorns. Treat this in the same way as the other, except that the shoots may grow to four inches, before stopping. The flowers of this come out all over the stems, and are the form of a kidney bean, split open. By having two or three good plants of each, you will rarely be without bloom. These flowers are a fine crimson. The soil for both these may be equal quantities of loam, dung, and peat.

RENDLETIA SPECIOSA MAJOR.—This is a hard-wooded plant, which I grow as a standard, with a stem of two feet, by letting the stem run to that height before I stop it, and cutting off all side shoots close to the main stem, and also removing all the branches that the stopping causes to grow, except those within two or three inches of the top. These I stop as soon as they are two or three inches long. This causes each shoot to give out other branches, and I continue this till there appears to be enough to form a good head, if allowed to grow; and I also cut back all that are inclined to grow up, instead of side ways. By stopping all that seem to be getting out of bounds, I keep the head of a good form, and when they seem to be growing, all round, in a right direction, I let them grow as fast as they please, and the plant being naturally pendulous it forms a most beautiful weeping tree, with bunches of flowers, of orange and scarlet, at the ends of all the branches. The constant shifting, as fast as the old pots fill with roots, is necessary to any plant that is growing, until it attains the size you want, when you may let it go over a whole season before you shift it, and this should be just as it is ready to make its new growth.

ABUTILON VENOSUM AND A. PICTUM GRANDIFLORUM are called greenhouse-plants, and they will grow in a greenhouse, but not so well as they do in a stove. These are very tall-growing plants, and if planted against the wall of a stove, will very soon cover it completely, and throw out hundreds of their bell-shaped flowers, of yellow, with red veins. The latter of the two is by far the largest grown, flowers twice as big, and leaves much handsomer, but both are good plants. The latter is new. These require no particular culture; the same compost as will do for the previously mentioned plants, will do for these also, and they will want the same shifts. If not stopped back, while young, it will grow five feet.

GLOXINEAS.—These are now so numerous and various, that I must begin to turn out the worst; but they are very beautiful,



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and of every shade of colour, but yellow. All the blues, all the reds, and various clouded or blotched varieties, with white, form so imposing a collection at blooming time, that I can hardly imagine anything more striking. I have raised these from seed, and have been repaid with many varieties, which, if not better than might have been had at the nurseries, were very gratifying. The Gloxinea, too, is a long time in flower. When the bloom is gone, I give no more water, but let them die off, unless, as at first, I wanted the seed; but when the leaves die down, they need not be disturbed till they begin to grow, when I shift them into new soil and let them go off to bloom again.

IXORA COCCINEA AND THE VARIETIES.—This plant wants some care and attention, for, if it is checked in the growth, the mealy bug attacks it, blights the young leaves, and when the head of buds appears, will, in a short time, destroy the beauty of the bloom for the season, The compost last recommended will do. The younger a plant is when you take it under your management the better. Give it new and good soil, and a new pot as soon as the roots touch the sides of the old one, and continue these shifts; stop it early, and encourage side growth and bushy habit. Let there be no change of temperature below fifty-five by night and sixty-five by day. It may range higher without injury.

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## A List of a few Choice Apples.

AS the readers of the *Midland Florist* are many of them much interested in the culture of fruit, and are glad at all times to hear of anything really good and new, I beg to forward you a list of a few Apples, chiefly new ones, raised in this neighbourhood, and which will be calculated in general, to suit the taste of those parties wishing to grow them for exhibition or market. With us, they are exhibited by weight, the same as Gooseberries, yet I admit that in fruit, flavour ought to be one great criterion, and I have, therefore, not been forgetful of that, in the list forwarded, with size and beauty combined.

*Lord Suffield,* raised at Rhodes, near Middleton, by Mr. Thomas Thorpe, is a fine sort for exhibition, attaining a large size. I saw one exhibited at Ashton-under-Lyne, the past season, which weighed twenty ounces and a quarter. It is of a hand-

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some conical form, and pale green, changing, when ripe, to a pale yellow; an early bearer, very prolific, and a good baker, but, like the parent, the Keswick, sinks in cooking. It is not a good keeper, neither can it be recommended for flavour.

*Grenadier.*—Raised at Three House Bank, near Ashton, by Mr. Garside. Another fine sort for exhibition, one being grown over nineteen ounces the past season. Dark green, not so handsome in form as the proceeding, being flat, but of much better quality. It is a good keeper and a good baker, also prolific, and an early bearer. This, for use, is preferable to Lord Suffield.

*Golden Spire.*—I do not know where this was raised, but it is really a first-rate variety, attaining a good size, longer in form than Lord Suffield, and, though it is saying a good deal, it is also handsomer. It is an early bearer, very prolific, a good baker, and will also do for dessert or table fruit. It is nearly transparent, when ripe, and cannot be too highly recommended.

*Burgess, alias Ringer,* was raised at Ashton-under-Lyne, by Mr. Joseph Burgess, a ringer at the church, hence the latter name. It is much in the way of Grenadier, being a dark green, and flat in form, but an abundant and early bearer, of good quality, a good baker, and also a moderate keeper. This was exhibited last season, at Ashton, fifteen ounces.

*Golden Pomroy.*—Not known where raised. It is a nice green sort, changing to yellow, of fair size, equally good for table or kitchen purposes, and a moderate keeper.

*Potts's Seedling,* was raised at Moss-side, near Ashton, by Mr. Samuel Potts. It is a green apple, changing to yellow, when kept; of a fair size, good bearer and baker, and an excellent keeper, keeping well until spring. To those who want a really good Apple, this can be recommended with confidence.

*King Apple.*—Of good size, and very green, changing to yellow when ripe; a good grower, and of fair average quality for kitchen purposes.

*Livsey's Imperial.*—This is a variety, that can be recommended for general good quality. Fruit of average size, rich colour, yellow, marked with red, and good for either table or kitchen purposes; tree of nice habit, and a good bearer. I can recommend this with every confidence. It is at present rather scarce.

*Selina, or Celina.*—A first-rate variety for either kitchen or table, with a very strong and rich aroma, when ripe. Round in shape, a dullish brown, and much speckled on the side next the sun. In season from September to February.

*Reinette du Canada.*—A fine variety, that ought to be in every collection where good fruit is prized. Of good size, fit for either kitchen or table, and will keep till April or May.

*General Havelock.*—A new variety, not yet let out, raised by Mr. Joseph Burgess, of Cross Town, Knutsford, a celebrated fruitist. It is a most prolific bearer, of a very upright habit,

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something in shape of fruit like the Keswick, but very firm, and of excellent flavour. A very desirable kitchen variety.

***Bradley's Golden Pearmain.***—A splendid new variety, very distinct, habit of plant very upright, a very early and prolific bearer, of first-rate quality, and a good keeper. This is really deserving a place in the most unique collection, and will be found a great acquisition to this improving fruit.

Where more variety is required, parties may add such as the Wellington, Waltham Abbey Seedling, Greenup Pippin, Lord Lennox, Newtown Pippin, Galiborough Pippin, Caroline, or Spencer's Favourite. There are three sorts named Wellington, the one I recommend is a fruit of medium size, very solid, nice form, and approaching the Ribston Pippin for flavour, and will keep until March. Where parties want good keepers, they may add Northern Spy, Hulbert's Victoria, Moss's Incomparable, Bess Pool, Nonpariel Russet, and Sturmer Pippin. The last will keep until the early Apples are ready, and is good for table or kitchen purposes. The above are varieties that will generally command a good price in the market, and may be depended on.

I cannot close these few remarks without adding a hint to those parties who are in the habit of sowing pips for stocks, and would advise them to select those that appear most promising, particularly when from fine sorts, and give them a trial, without grafting. They will, in general, fruit in seven years, and if they do not all prove good, they will make good stocks to work those on that prove an acquisition.

JOHN WALKER.

*Winton, near Manchester.*

## Roses.

IN the *Midland Florist*, for last month, you invite your readers to answer questions, under the head "Notes and Queries," and the first question put being upon Roses, and, in my opinion, not answered so as to prove generally satisfactory to those wishing for

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such information, I think I may, without presumption, attempt to answer it myself. I quite agree with you, that it would be difficult, and no small task to give a list of Roses flowering in each month of the year; indeed, without some forcing—and retarding also—Roses cannot be had in bloom the year through.

A list of the *best continuous* blooming Roses is not so difficult to furnish, and I think the selection I shall make will be considered a great improvement on those you have extracted from another periodical. Instead of giving a *mixture* from many classes *altogether*, I will select from four of the *most popular* classes separately. I will begin with the Tea-scented and China Roses, as those bloom *longer* and *more continuously* than any of the other classes, but they are *not so hardy* as the Bourbons, nor especially as the Hybrid Perpetuals, and I subjoin a note for their especial management in the open ground, and if those directions are followed, they will succeed perfectly. The two classes (Teas and Chinas) are *all continuous bloomers*, but, for the benefit of those who may require *only a few* from each class, I will name eighteen of the former and twelve of the latter, which I consider *the best*, with variety in colour.

TEA ROSES.—Adam, Bougere, Comte de Paris, Devoniensis, Eugenie Desgaches, Gloire de Dijon (the best), Goubault, Josephine Malton, Louise de Savoie, Madame Willermoz, Marie de Medicis, Melanie Oger, Marshal Bugeaud, Moire, Safranot, Sombreuil, Souvenir d'un Ami, Vicomtesse des Cazes.

CHINA ROSES.—Alexina, Archduke Charles, Citoyen des Deux Mondes, Augustine Hersente, Elize Flory, Eugene Desgaches, Fabvier, Marjolin, Madeline, Mrs. Bosanquet, President d'Olbecque, Tancredi.

The Tea and China Roses, as I have before stated, are somewhat tender, and unsuited for *general cultivation* in all soils and situations; but they will succeed very well, if planted in *well drained* and *properly prepared ground*, in a *sheltered* situation. They should be first planted about the latter end of March, or any

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time in April, that they may get well established, before winter comes upon them. In the autumn, they ought to be mulched with some long stable litter, and, for about three months in the depth of winter, they should have a covering of Fern, Furze, or hedge clippings (Beech clippings are best); and when this is removed, in March or April, according to the season, the litter should be dug in, to make the beds tidy, and it will also improve the growth of the plants. After a hard winter, their tops are sometimes found much cut by frost, but if they are *on their own roots* (as they ought to be), they will soon throw up strong shoots from below, and will produce as fine a growth and as good a bloom as if not touched by frost. I have some beds so treated, which have stood in a good state for the last half-dozen years, although we have, in that time, had such hard winters.

The Bourbon Roses are the next in turn, as continuous bloomers. Many of them are *very brilliant* in colour, and those of more chaste colours are very glossy and clear, with stout petals, and fine large deep green glossy foliage. The only good quality *wanting*, to make them perfect, is perfume, and a *few* of them do not lack that either. The following are the most continuous bloomers, and those marked with an asterisk are the *most perfect* for exhibition, but *some* of those not so marked are, perhaps, more brilliant.

Bourbon Roses.—Armosa, Augustine Leleur, *Aurore du Guide, *Colonel Foissy, Comice de Seine et Marne, *Dumont du Courset, Dupetit Thouars, *Emile Courtier, Francois Herincq, *George Cuvier, Gloire de Paris, *Henri Lecoq, *Le Gracieuse, *Le Marechal du Palais, Madame Margat, *Madame Neraræ, *Madame Angelina, *Marianne, *Marquis de Moyria, *Marquis d'Ivry, *Menoux, *Omar Pacha, Pierre de St. Cyr, Princesse Clementine, Prince Albert, *Proserpine, *Queen, *Reveil, *Splendens, *Souchet, Scipion, *Souvenir de la Malmaison, Souvenir d'un Frere, *Souvenir de l'Exposition, Therisita (very sweet), *Vicomte de Cussey.

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The Hybrid Perpetuals are the next, and last class of Roses which I shall refer to on this occasion. Many in this class do not bloom so continuously as the previous classes which I have named, but those I have selected are very abundant and continuous bloomers, *when well cultivated*. Indeed, on this depends a succession of flowers upon any of them, and many of those named below are in bloom the first and last in the season,—I gathered flowers from several of them only a few days before Christmas. Those marked with the asterisk, have the *fullest* and *best formed* flowers, but some of the others are most brilliant. I have *omitted some* of the *best show flowers*, because the *most continuous bloomers* only were asked for; but if any of your readers should desire a list of the *best show flowers* (including the summer Roses), I shall have great pleasure in giving it.

Hybrid Perpetual Roses.—Alexandrine Bachmeteff, *Amandine, *Angelina Granger, Arthur de Sansalles, *Baronne Hallez, *Baronne Prevost, *Caroline de Sansalles, Comte de Nanteuil, Desgaches, Deuil de F. Willermoz, Dr. Juillard, *Duchess of Sutherland, *Duchesse de Montpensier, Geant des Batailles, *General Cavaignac, *General Castellane, *General Brea, General Jacqueminot, *General Simpson, *Jules Margottin, *Laure Ramond, *Lady Alice Peel, *La Reine, *L'Elegante Nouvelle, Le Lion des Combats, Lord Raglan, Louis Odier, Madame Aimee, *Madame Cambaceres, *Madame Ducher, Madame Fremion, *Madame Guillot, Madame Laffay, Madame Masson, *Madame Oger, *Madame Phelip, *Madame Place, *Naomi, Paul Dupuy, *Prince Chepitouzikoff, *Prince Leon, Souvenir de Leveson Gower, *Souvenir de la Reine d'Angleterre, *Sir John Franklin, Standard of Marengo, Toujours Fleuri, Triomphe d'Avranches, Triomphe de Paris.

In furnishing the above lists of continuous blooming Roses, for the information and benefit of your readers, I have not given their colours or other descriptions, because I was afraid of making the communication too

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long; besides they can get all such information from a Rose catalogue, which may be obtained of any Rose grower, like myself, on application, enclosing a stamp.

THOMAS APPLEBY.

*Rose Mount Nursery, York.*

## Greenhouse Azaleas.

BY E. CLEETON, GARDENER TO E. HOLLAND, ESQ., M.P., DUMBLETON, NEAR EVESHAM, GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

[Continued from page 33.]

ALTHOUGH most Azaleas strike freely, some of them, to succeed well, require to be grafted. Azaleas Gledstanesii, variegata, lateritia, and all delicate-growing sorts require this treatment, by which their flowers come much larger than when on their own roots. The best stock for grafting, is a Phœnicea, and spring is the best time for the operation, although it may be performed with success at almost any time, when the wood is ripe. Select young well-ripened wood, of the current year's growth, about half an inch long, for the scion, and a healthy stock, of one year's growth. Side grafting is the best, and most readily performed. The cut should be about half an inch long, but not deeper than the scion will fill up. Tie the graft on with very soft cotton, bast, or worsted. To obtain large plants in the shortest space of time, put from three to ten grafts on the plant, but in the latter case, larger stocks must be chosen. After grafting, plunge the pots in ashes, or tan, in a close warm frame, or house, and cover them with glasses, or hand-lights. Keep them shaded from the hot sun, and take off the glasses, early in the morning, for an hour or two, several times in the week, in order to dry up the damp that may accumulate on the graft, and if all go on well, in three or four weeks, the stock and graft will have become united. They must then have a little air

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given, which is best done by tilting the glass. In the course of a week, they may be taken from under the glass, and placed in a close house, where they can be kept from the hot sun, and syringed slightly, morning and evening. Of course, if any of the stocks throw out side shoots, they must be rubbed off immediately, lest they should weaken the graft, but the stocks should not be headed down until the grafts are established, as, by so doing, you would cut off the elaborated sap. In fact, I have seen the plants killed by this practice. If the grafting is done in March, about the middle of May, they must be examined, and if the pots are found full of roots, they must be repotted into two sizes larger, using the soil I have before described. Place them in their former situation; but if a vinery is at command, they will be found to succeed very well, under the shadow of the Vines. Syringe freely, and encourage growth, so as to get the wood well ripened, before autumn. The ligatures of the grafts must now be carefully looked over, and if any of them are too tight, they must be loosened a little, but not removed too quickly, as the grafts are apt to grow themselves off. After this time, the grafted plants may be treated like those on their own roots.

After the second year, the plants may be again repotted into larger pots, using a little light loam. Of course, this potting must be done after the flowering season. Place them in a vinery, and syringe freely, but water cautiously, until the roots have taken hold of the soil freely. Keep them in heat, until they have set their flower buds, when they should be removed into the greenhouse, for a short time, and then into the open air, under a low north wall, or some such situation, till autumn. When there is danger of frost, they must be removed into the greenhouse, and watered sparingly, until they show flower, when a little more heat and liberal waterings should be given.

The different kinds of Indian Azalea are particularly adapted for winter and early spring forcing, provided they are encouraged into growth the previous spring,



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that the wood may be well ripened, and the flower buds set by the middle or end of July. If wanted to bloom as early as the middle of October, select those which have a plentiful show of buds, and place them in a temperature of from sixty to seventy degrees, by day, and from fifty to fifty-five, by night, with a reasonable amount of atmospheric moisture. If a little bottom heat can be introduced, they will be in bloom so much earlier. Plants for succession must be introduced as required.

INSECTS.—The great pest of the Azalea is the thrip, but greenfly is also apt to attack them, especially when making their new wood. Fumigate with tobacco, or syringe with tobacco water, or an infusion of elder leaves, or sprinkle the plants with a little sulphur. I have found these to be most effectual, after being repeated two or three times.

## My Greenhouse.

DAPHNE INDICA.—The opening of the door in the morning is quite enough to convince me of the value of this plant. The perfume is beyond measure sweet, while the bloom, in bunches, at the end of every shoot, makes the plant, as an ornament, quite of the first class. Of this beautiful family—the Daphne—the Indian, are the most valuable, and in the two varieties that I cultivate, Daphne Indica *alba* and Daphne Indica *rubra*, there is nothing to give a preference. *Alba* ought to mean white, and *rubra* should mean red, but it is only rosy, and pale too. Nevertheless, they are splendid greenhouse plants, blooming when blooms are scarce, and loading the air with rich perfume, when perfumes are not plentiful. At present, these only require attention to watering, because blooming plants absorb a good deal of water, and must not be allowed to get too dry; but they must not be watered while there is any dampness.

ABUTILON STRIATUM, VENOSUM, AND PICTUM GRANDIFLORUM.—These are among the most curious and elegant of winter bloomers. They are ranked among greenhouse plants, and I keep them, but I confess my neighbour keeps them best in a sort of conservatory, which is not allowed to get below forty

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degrees, while my greenhouse is permitted to get to thirty-five degrees, without exciting the least fear of damage. Strictly speaking, I would hardly care if my greenhouse was, once in twenty-four hours, all through the winter, stuck at thirty-three degrees, being only one degree above freezing point. Nay, if it were not for my friend and favourite Abutilon, and some two or three other touchy-tempered subjects, I should be almost indifferent at its passing to thirty-two degrees for a short time. Still the Abutilon has been in bloom up to the present time. A. striatum is, however, completely beaten by A. venosum, which is twice the size, and more handsome. A. pictum grandiflorum is a much larger flower than either, and might be called coarse, but it deserves its name, Grandiflorum. It is a bell flower, yellow, or orange ground, and blood-coloured veins all over it, raised above the surface; foliage handsomer than that of a Grape Vine. Those who have not these plants, ought to get them.

Acacias.—I am jumping from one subject to another, rather because they indicate bloom than for any marked preference; but there is no tribe or family of plants that I have more regard for. There are twenty or thirty varieties of Acacia, that I keep. I have some now in full flower, others rapidly approaching, and all indicating what they will be, by their buds. Most of the flowers are yellow, all of them *fluffy*, or *buzzy*, or whatever people like to call them. I mean that they have no petals, but appear all points. I like them, because the style of growth varies, the number and dispositions of the blooms vary, and the shape of the flowers vary, some being round, others long, some oval, but all beautiful, the flowers in every one of the species and varieties being very abundant. They require only ordinary greenhouse culture, and any thing short of frost.

Hovea Celsii.—This is the best of a very beautiful family, unless we allow H. ilicifolia to beat it, and I have a notion, that if the latter were grown well, it would surpass it. I have but a miserably grown specimen of the latter, although the best I could buy, when I purchased it. This blooms very early, as does H. Celsii. One or two of my plants are opening their flowers.

The general management of the greenhouse depends upon the weather, from day to day, but I have observed generally that sunshine and frost mostly prevail in February, and unless the cold be intense, one night's frost rarely injures anything, if there has been a fire in the day time. Many a time have I passed a nursery, in winter, at three or four o'clock in the afternoon, and have been half smothered in smoke, because they have been lighting their fires, and so drawing their plants up, by forcing them in the night, contrary to

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everything in nature. No matter where the plants come from, everybody ought to know that the night is colder than the day. That is my reason for lighting my fire in the morning and letting it out in the evening. It enables me to keep doors and windows open, give plants what they most want, air, and when shut up, at night, without fire heat, no frost will penetrate. I may be told, perhaps, that nurserymen who supply markets ought to know better than I do what plants want, but I shall not believe them, till they can bring plants to market that are not drawn up weakly. When they produce Geraniums, as bushy, and short, and good coloured as my poor little collection is generally, I shall begin to think that plants can grow better in the dark than in the light. The plants I mention first, are those that bloom early, and, as yet, I have touched upon little else. By and by I shall have them come fast, and have hardly room to notice them, but at present, though my greenhouse is as gay as most people's, there are ten plants without flower for one that is blooming, and I endeavour to have something in flower all the year.

## List of New Chrysanthemums.

ACCORDING to promise, I now give the readers of the *Midland Florist* a list of the new varieties of Chrysanthemums. I have seen the whole of them in bloom, and can therefore testify to their good qualities. To purchasers of new varieties I can safely recommend them, as they will all give satisfaction.

LARGE FLOWERING.

*Aimie Ferriere.*—Beautiful incurved silver white, with delicate tips of rose. Better than Hermione.

*Eugenie.*—Lilac and blush, very full. Excellent for pots.

*Madame Domage.*—White, very free and double. Fine for specimens.

*Augustine.*—Very large rose lilac, remarkably double. Fine pot plant.

*Admirable.*—Light rose, incurved, very free, and fine.

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ORNAMENTAL FLOWER VASE.

[Ransome's Patent Siliceous Stone.]

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ORNAMENTAL FLOWER BASKET.

[Ransome's Patent Siliceous Stone.]

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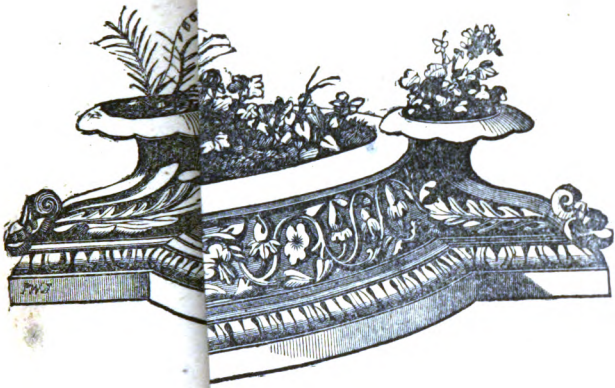

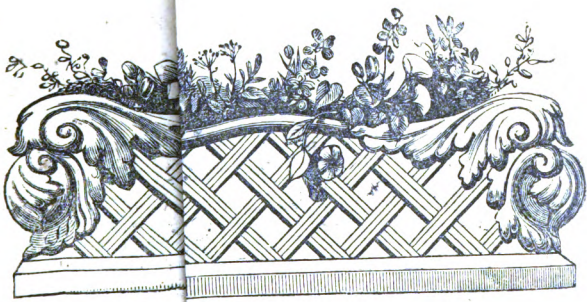

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*Madame Leo.*—Ivory white, extraordinary high centre, two-thirds of a ball. A first-rate flower.
*Progne.*—Splendid violet carmine, the finest colour of any yet grown, and very free bloomer.
*Golden Queen of England.*—Gold and canary, very large, form and habit like Queen of England.

LARGE, ANEMONE FLOWERS.

*Louis.*—Lilac, high centre, and very beautiful.

POMPONES, ANEMONE FLOWERS.

*Madame Molinie.*—Carmine rose, with lighter centre; free and dwarf.
*Madame Montels.*—Blush white, with yellow centre; very free.
*Madame Sentir.*—Beautiful pure white. A perfect gem.
*M. Astie.*—Gold, with very high centre.
*M. Achille Dutour.*—Fine pure white.

POMPONES, NOT ANEMONE FLOWERS.

*Polycarp.*—Deep orange and carmine edges, very double and free, extra fine.
*Crœsus.*—Orange and carmine, quite a new colour, very good.
*Salamon.*—Rose and carmine, very free, and full.
*Donna Alba.*—Bistre yellow, very free, and full. Fine for specimens.
*Pompone d'Or.*—Bright gold, rather small, very double, and free.
*Pandore.*—Chestnut red, very double, and free.
*Madame Andry.*—Rosy blush and yellow, very fine.
*Axcaine.*—Bright gold, free, and very good.
*Frederick Pele.*—Red crimson, very early and dwarf. Like Scarlet Gem.

S. BROOME, F.H.S.

*Temple Gardens.*

# Ransome's Patent Siliceous Stone.

WE have given several illustrations of the productions of the patent siliceous stone works, at Ipswich. Mr. Shirley Hibberd, speaking of garden ornaments, says, "Did you ever set up a few vases, statues, fountains, basins, and such things, in your garden, and have the mortification of seeing them split into powder with the sun, or divide piecemeal with



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the frost? You may or may not; but the thing is by no means uncommon; for nine-tenths of the garden ornaments that are made of that mysterious compound, called 'artificial stone,' are fit only to adorn, for a few nights, an oyster-shell grotto, or beautify the tables of a flower show or rural fete. When we talk of stone, we have an idea of something that will last, at least, for years; but the majority of the compounds used, in moulding, as substitutes for the real marble, which the sculptor has chiselled, are as temporary in durability as the fame of their makers. Of course, there are exceptions. Coade and Seeley, and Cottam and Hallen, are noted for the superiority of their productions in this way; but the greatest triumph ever achieved, in the production of a substitute, is that known as Ransome's siliceous stone, which is the result of years of patient study and experiment, in the hands of a man eminently gifted as an experimental chemist. To tell the history of this invention would be a long though interesting narrative, not here to be attempted. The *Times* has spread the inventor's fame; and the most eminent men of science—Ansted, De la Beche, and others—have testified of its high merit. It is, in brief, a *real* stone, *artificially* made, and is more durable than any real stone with which we are acquainted, except, perhaps, granite and porphyry. How it is made does not matter so much as that vases of all sizes and patterns (many of them examples of high art), plinths, cornices, fountains, statues, and, indeed, every variety of ornament for which stone would be the proper material, are produced in it, and may be any day inspected at the offices, Cannon-row, Westminster, or the works, at Ipswich. The object of producing a substitute for real stone is, that works of art may be multiplied at a low cost; and when science enables the modeller to produce them in a material fitted to bear any weather, for any length of time, without a change being possible, a great boon is conferred upon those who cannot go direct to the sculptor for the gratification of taste."

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# Our Miscellany.

MANY of our readers will feel interested in the following announcement of exhibitions for the present year:—The Royal and National Tulip show is to be held at Sheffield, in May. The Horticultural Society's spring show will be held in St. James's Hall, April 21. The Royal Botanic will hold their opening exhibition, in Regent's Park, May 12. The Crystal Palace Company hold their first exhibition on May 15. On the 2nd of June, the Royal Botanic exhibition is to be held; on the 9th, the grand show, at Chiswick; on the 16th, the Crystal Palace; and on the 23rd, the Royal Botanic. The autumn shows commence with the Crystal Palace, which takes place on September 8, 9, and close with the Horticultural Society's fruit exhibition, November 17.

Are we to have a national Dahlia exhibition? We have national Tulip, Carnation, and, this season, Rose shows. Is it that those flowers are better adapted for the purpose? or are the lovers of those flowers more energetic in commencing and carrying out a *popular* exhibition? But perhaps it only requires suggesting. There is little doubt that it would meet with a ready and hearty response from every lover of that noble autumnal flower, We shall be happy to aid any really energetic movement for this purpose.

We understand the national Rose exhibition will be held in London, on or about the 1st day of July. It is to be hoped that every lover of the Queen of summer will do his best towards the getting out of an *excellent* schedule. Of course, we mean by this, that he will put his hand in his pocket, and swell the subscription list. We hear the project is approved by Mr. Rivers, Messrs. Paul, Mr. C. Turner, and other eminent men.

WHO IS "A PRACTICAL GARDENER?"—We have received no less than five communications, from town and country, asking the name of the writer of "A little

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Talk about the Chrysanthemum," who signs himself "A Practical Gardener." All the five correspondents testify to the article being the best they ever read, and all desire "to know the writer's name, in order to have a little personal converse with him, and pick up a little more information." We must, however, under the circumstances, decline giving up the name, but we have pleasure in announcing, that we hope to give, in future numbers, many hints on the Chrysanthemum, from the same pen.

PLATYCODON CHINENSE.—In the December number of the *Midland Florist*, Mr. Glenny, with his usual candour and good sense, says he believes the plant he has received under the name of Platycodon Chinense is identical with Campanula grandiflora. If the flower of the plant in question has five stigmas, and a five-celled capsule, it is the Platycodon grandiflora of Don, which is the Campanula grandiflora of Jacquin and Curtis. If the flower has three stigmas and a three-celled capsule, it is the Platycodon homallanthinum, and as this latter was brought from China, by Sir G. Staunton, it may have been inadvertently named Chinense; but it was also found in Siberia, by Fisch, and in Kamschatka, by Redowsk. Both species are beautiful little alpine plants, quite hardy, and well adapted either for pots or a light border.—A. STANSFIELD, *Todmorden*.

CHRYSANTHEMUMS.—POMPONES, IN POTS.—I have read over the chat on the Chrysanthemum, and the account of the plants grown and exhibited by myself, by "A Practical Gardener." Who he is I cannot tell, but had he been at my elbow, at the different times of potting, his statements could not have been more correct. A few hints on the subject of starting may be of benefit, especially to the amateur, by way of encouragement. He says they were started in November. *True;* but here we must consider the habit and kinds grown. For instance, I will refer to Brilliant, Cedo Nulli, Duraflet, or Nelly. Brilliant will, if in a healthy condition, throw up its grass, fit to start as cuttings, the first week in November, Cedo Nulli and

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Duraflet by the middle of November, and Nelly not before the second week in December, if intended to grow for specimens. I would advise amateurs, or inexperienced growers, to start as soon as proper cuttings can be got. Although Brilliant may have six weeks start of Nelly, still the latter will exceed it in growth. Take off the cuttings clearly above the soil, and remove the leaves, and also the eyes, from that part of the cutting inserted in the pot. If this care is taken, there will not be a twentieth part of the suckers there would be without it. If any amateur require information on growing this favourite plant as specimens, in pots, if he will state the age and kind of plants grown, I shall be very happy in giving it, through the pages of the *Midland Florist*.—JAMES HOLLAND, *gardener to R. W. Peake, Esq., Spring Grove, Hounslow.*

OBITUARY.—Died, January 7th, aged sixty-six years, MR. JOSEPH CLEGG, of Middleton, well known to the floral world, as well as to the Gooseberry growers, for a great number of years. He was interred in Middleton church yard, and the funeral was attended by upwards of seventy friends, from Manchester, Ashton, Oldham, Rochdale, and other places. The floral community are indebted to him for numerous novelties, which he at various times introduced. As a judge of Auriculas, Polyanthuses, Pinks, Carnations, and Picotees, he had no equal.

## Reviews.

JAMES CARTER & Co.'s SPRING CATALOGUE. The twenty-third annual issue is now before us, and we have not a moment's hesitation in pronouncing it to be *the best out*. It contains lists of flower seeds, arranged on an admirable plan,—the Linnæan order and class, the natural order, the native country, the hardiness and duration, colour of the flower, height in feet, month of flowering, &c. The

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lists, too, are most extensive. The kitchen garden seeds are also admirably arranged, and interspersed with instructions as to sowing, &c. It ought to be in the hands of every amateur. The spelling is perfect, and the botanical names are all accented, a very great help to pronunciation. The catalogue may be had gratis, and post-free of the Messrs. Carter, whose address will be found in our advertising pages.

E. G. HENDERSON & SON'S SEED LISTS, 1858.—This is got up in its usual excellent style, contains a very large amount of matter (seventy-six pages), well printed. The catalogue of flower seeds is very extensive. A few hints on the cultivation of annuals, on Calceolaria seeds, &c., are given. Mr. Breeze's Verbenas, Mr. Banks's Fuchsias, Mr. Grieves's new double-flowering Petunias, Mr. Breeze's Gloxinias, Mr. Wyness's Petunias, as well as new Achimenes, ornamental Geraniums, &c., are fully described. A description of Mr. Fortune's Sorreya grandis, and a large amount of information, alike interesting and useful.

DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE OF ROSES, GROWN BY T. APPLEBY, YORK.—Contains a nice selection of Roses, together with many useful hints on the culture and growth of the different varieties.

## Notes and Queries.

We shall feel obliged by any of our readers answering questions under this head. Although we have no objection to answer as far as possible, still, if our friends will endeavour to afford instructions to their brother amateurs, we shall esteem it a favour.

ROSE LABELS.—I have not seen any Rose labels that I like so well as those I have in use. They are turned out of Boxwood, and a little larger than a half-crown piece, with a hole perforated near the edge, so as to hang them with matallic wire. I rub them over with white paint, and write the name on one side, and put the number on the other, so that if the names become illegible the number may be referred to. They are neat, durable, and may be had at a small cost.—SAMUEL BAGSHAW, *Crab Tree, Sheffield.*

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J. B., *Bradford.*—If your Gloire de Dijon Roses are in pots, and you have the means of flowering them the end of April or beginning of May, you can give them a shift as soon as the bloom is over, and prune them to two eyes, on the young wood, and by giving them liquid manure twice a week, with a little care as to shading, &c., by placing them on a north or south border, according to the season, have them in bloom by the 12th of August. If, however, they are planted out, the only plan will be to prune them as late as possible, say the middle of May, cutting them very close, and only leaving the strong wood to flower, giving liquid manure, as before directed.—H. DAVIES.

EPACRISES.—W. J. P. will find the following list to contain all good sorts. Those I consider the most strong and vigorous growers, I have marked with a star. *Alba florabunda, white; *Ardentissima, crimson; Campanulata alba, white; *Campanulata coccinea, scarlet; *Campanulata maxima, dark crimson; Densiflora, blush; *Elegantissima, blush; *Grandiflora rubra, red; *Hyacinthæflora, rose; *Impressa coccinea, scarlet; *Carnea longiflora, flesh; *Kinghornii, pink; Lævigata, white; *Longiflora alba, white; *Miniata, white, vermillion; *Magnifica, rose; Nivalis grandiflora, snow white, good; Onosmæflora, red; Purpurescens, purple; Sanguinea, blood red; *Tauntoniensis, red; Wilmoreana, purple; Wiltonia, pale pink; *Andromedæflora, white, rose.—E. CLEETON.

ROSARIES.—Although "A Young Gardener's" query, as to planting his rosary, was very ably answered, perhaps the following few remarks may not be unacceptable to him and others of your readers, who may be planters of the queen of flowers. I have had some little experience in the planting and management of every kind of Rose, and, last season, planted some thousands. A Young Gardener must bear in mind that some kinds of Roses would not do at all worked, while others will not do on their own roots. For instance, Geant des Batailles will grow fast enough on its own roots, but it will not flower half so well as when worked; but take care that it be worked on the common Brier, and not on the Manetti, nor on the Descartes stock, so highly recommended in the *Gardeners' Chronicle,* lately, by a nurseryman, who advertised it and Manettis to be given away. These are both good stocks for the nurseryman, but no Roses worked on them will last so long, nor flower so well, after the first two seasons, as on the common Brier; and most nurserymen know this, and keep them in stock, for persons who will not be persuaded to purchase Roses on other stocks. I have planted a bed of all the best kinds of Hybrid Perpetual Roses, on their own roots, and in one winter lost fifty-eight plants, out of eighty. The next season, I planted the same bed with the same kinds of Roses, worked on the Brier, with no addition to the soil, and they flourished and flowered well. If I was going to plant a rosary

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to-morrow, I should plant every Hybrid Perpetual, unless for climbers, worked, dwarf or tall, to suit the situation; and also the Bourbons, except Souvenir de la Malmaison, Paul's Prince Albert, Sir Joseph Paxton, and Pierre de St. Cyr, all free bloomers and good growers on their own roots. Amongst the Teas, Devoniensis, Eugene Desgaches, Delphine Gaudot, Gloire de Dijon, Safrano, Sombreuil, and Triomphe de Luxembourg will do well either on their own roots, or worked, but will require a sheltered situation, or protection in winter. The Noisettes are all free bloomers, and mostly very hardy, and, for pillars, or chains, are not equalled by any that are perpetual bloomers; while for an edging, or front row, nothing, in my opinion, equals Chinas, Fabvier, or Cramoise superieure. I saw two beds, this season, one of Souvenir de la Malmaison and one of Fabvier, splendid, not merely a day or two, but for the whole summer.—H. Davies.

Chrysanthemums.—How ought the oyster shells to be used in cultivating the Chrysanthemum, as described in last year's volume, page nineteen? What is the price of the plants, and where can I best procure them?—A. F. A., *Leamington.*——Pound the oyster shells small, run them through a fine sieve (the finer the better), mix a little in the loam, to keep it open, put the course at the bottom of the pot, for drainage, say an inch thick, in each pot, after covering the hole with a large piece. The price of plants varies according to their quality, but the average price for old varieties, is from six shillings to nine shillings per dozen. Any respectable nurseryman will supply them, in April and May, as they are generally grown now by all florists, but to recommend a single person would not be doing justice to the trade, as all sell them.—Practical Gardener.

I should feel obliged if you will kindly answer the following questions:—How long is Camellia seed in the ground before it germinates? I have this year saved three fine, well ripened, seeds, of the double white Camellia, and at once sowed them. Must the ground be kept moist or dry? I have also saved some fine seed of the Josephine Lily. When must it be sown? Does it require heat?—Senex.

## Calendar of Operations.

Auriculas.—Should any growers have been prevented by the weather, or otherwise, from dressing and topping up their plants, last month, they should lose no time in doing it. It is better to have that little job done before they awake and begin to show growth. Plants intended for exhibition, should be well protected from frost and the severity of the

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weather. Young plants, and such as are not wanted for showing, do not require much covering, only from hail storms and heavy rain. The Auricula is known to be quite hardy, and will stand almost any quantity of frost, providing it is kept pretty dry. Nevertheless, frost will greatly injure the blooms, if they are not guarded against it. Plants, whether for show or otherwise, should have all the dry and mild air possible given them. During day time, when the atmosphere is clear, the lights ought to be taken entirely off, till sunset, but be sure then to put them on, with other necessary covering for the protection of the bloom.—JOHN HEPWORTH, *Lea Bridge-road, Leyton.*

AZALEAS.—As they go out of bloom, pick off all decayed flowers and seed pods, as they only tend to exhaust the energies of the plants, by perfecting the seed. Place the plants in a nice growing temperature, as directed at page 32. Keep a sharp look out after the thrips, and fumigate with tobacco, as soon as they are seen. Do not use the syringe too freely, until we have twelve hours sun. Place another lot of plants in the forcing house, to succeed those going out of bloom.—E. CLEETON, *gardener to E. Holland. Esq., M.P., Dumbleton.*

CARNATIONS AND PICOTEES.—The present mild winter has had a visible effect upon these plants, and if severe weather should come now, they being so tender, it will have a tendency to injure them much, unless they are carefully protected. Air should be given to the utmost extent, during favourable weather, and all decayed foliage should be carefully pulled off. Towards the latter end of the month, the plants will begin to emerge from their dormant state, and give evident signs of growth, you may then give them the benefit of warm gentle rain, whenever it falls. The hearts of the plants must be opened, when fast. The soil for planting them in should be carefully examined, as turned over, in order that no wire-worms may remain in it. Let this be done every three weeks, until planting time, and if covered over, or placed in a shed, so as a free circulation of air can go through, the better, as all rain should be kept from it.—JOHN SLATER, *Cheetham Hill, near Manchester.*

CINERARIAS.—These, both seedlings and named sorts, will now be very gay. In selecting seedlings to grow another season, choose only such as are improvements on existing varieties. There is considerable improvement to be made in this class of flowers, and amateurs should turn their attention to it. There is every chance of success. Specimen plants will be growing fast, and must have all the room it is possible to give them. As they grow, the flower stems must be tied out and regulated. This is necessary, in order to have a handsome head of bloom. A little manure water, such as is given to Pelargoniums, will



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be beneficial. Later plants, if not in their blooming pots, should be repotted at once. These will bloom late, and will be found very useful for making stock. See that the plants never suffer for want of water. As the greenfly is always busy, be prepared to rid yourself of them as soon as they are observed, they soon spoil the beauty of a plant.—JOHN DOBSON, *Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth.*

CHRYSANTHEMUMS.—Having had so little frost and rain, this winter, the Chrysanthemums are growing, and throwing up more suckers than I have seen for years past. Still, winter is not yet over, and we must look for some severe frosts and a good deal of rain before April, therefore, care must be taken to protect the tender varieties, that throw up late suckers, by covering them slightly with loose litter, if not removed from the borders into cold frames. In damp weather, the slugs are very destructive to the tender varieties: they should be sharply looked after, and a slight sprinkling of quick lime thrown round the roots occasionally, to check them. Where cuttings are well struck, they may with safety be potted into sixty-sized pots, but when potting, examine carefully for *eyes breaking round the roots, and take them clean out, clear of the mould.* as they produce abundance of suckers, which rob the parent shoot. Keep putting in cuttings of both large-flowering and pompones, when the suckers are four inches high, but be careful not to over water them, they so soon damp off. They will strike very easily now, in a cold frame, by mixing plenty of silver sand. Don't begin yet to divide the old roots, for the open borders, for fear of frost. Wait till the latter end of February, before you divide the hardy sorts. Give plenty of air, in frames, on fine days, and very little water. Stop the pompones that are grown six inches high, but not the large sorts. If you wish to obtain any of the new varieties, let out this season, send your orders immediately to your nurseryman, to allow sufficient time to get strong plants in April.—S. BROOME, F.H.S., *Temple Gardens.*

CUCUMBERS.—If the instructions given last month have been acted upon, and no accidents have happened to the plants, they will probably, by the middle of this month, be fit for planting out into the beds in which they are to produce their fruit. However, if the plants are weak, it will be better to defer the transplanting until they get stronger; for if planted out before they acquire strength, their future progress will be slow, and the crop unproductive. Presuming they are ready, the beds for their reception should be got in readiness, the materials having been previously prepared by repeated turnings and fermentings. If leaves can be had, one-third, or even one-half of them should be added, as they generally give out a more lasting heat than dung alone. The height of the beds, at this season,

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should not be less than five feet at the back, and four feet in front, and they should be placed upon a dry and, if possible, a sheltered spot, fully exposed to the morning sun, and the ground be raised just the size of the intended bed, to afford means of applying linings, as well as to keep the bottom of the bed free from water or damp. After the bed is finished, put on the frame and lights, and keep them closely shut down, until the heat rises briskly. If it be slow in rising, cover the lights with mats for a day or two. When the heat is sufficiently up, the bed is ready for earthing over. For this purpose, a portion of soil should be placed under cover, to be dry and ready for use. The thickness of mould put on, need not be more than two or three inches, but under the centre of each light, raise a small mound of earth, upon which the plants are to be set, and the nearer they are to the glass the better, if they do not touch it. In planting, draw the mould gently round the stems, and plant them rather deep, to encourage roots from them. After planting, give them a gentle watering, with tepid water, from a fine rose watering pot. The plants being now ridged out, care must be taken to supply them with air, every day, in a greater or less quantity, as the weather and state of the beds may determine. In giving air, at this season, great caution is required, not to give too much at once. In cold frosty weather, it is well to hang old mats over the openings, that the current of air may be broken before it reaches the plants. If there is a great deal of steam in the bed, it is sometimes necessary to leave a little air on all night, but then it will be requisite to let the ends of the mats with which the frames are covered, hang over the openings. The principal object to be attended to now, is to maintain a constant growing heat in the bed, to keep the plants from sustaining any check in their growth. If the materials of which the bed is made are good, a little protection with straw, Fern fronds, or Bean haulm laid round the sides will prevent the cold cutting winds from driving out the heat, and lining the bed might be deferred several days longer. A bed of good materials, properly put up, should last, with the above protection, for three weeks, without the aid of linings.—JOHN BURTON, *Oxton.*

EPACRISES.—Cut the shoots back, when done flowering, and keep the plants close until they break afresh; after which, the general routine, given in last year's vol., pp. 100 and 170, must again commence.—E. CLEETON, *gardener to E. Holland, Esq., M.P., Dumbleton.*

FORCING DEPARTMENT.—The present season being unusually free from frost, it may be considered an easy one for forcing, as both time and fuel are saved, and it is beneficial to the plants forced. Where the Peach and Fig are planted on the back wall of the vinery, the Vines on the rafters should not be hurried.

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Give them plenty of time to swell and break their buds, and they will be all the stronger and better for it, during the season. When Vines are not over-forced at the first, but gradually brought on at a medium temperature, they are able to withstand any sudden fall of the weather, or any other untoward event which may occur. The tissue of the leaf is stronger, the foot stalk shorter, the young shoots are not so weak and fine drawn, as is the case with Grapes in over-heated houses. But the primary object is to give the Nectarines and Figs, on the back wall, a start a-head of the Vines, so that by the time the Vines are fairly broke into leaf, the fruit on the former will be set, and the temperature which must be raised for the Vine, at this stage, will be suitable also for the Peach and Fig. Use the syringe sparingly, this weather, as very strong fires will not have been required to dry up the moisture of the houses. Look to the heating material in the pit. See that it is often turned, and augmented, when required, and that the bottom heat is not too great for the pots. When the buds begin to break, the night temperature may be increased a few degrees, but it should not exceed fifty-five degrees, until they are all fairly started. Allow a rise of seven to ten degrees by day, giving air (not too much) at all favourable times, when it is soft, or with sun, taking it away before the heat of the house declines much below its usual scale. See that Strawberries and other plants do not suffer for want of water at the roots. The former might be lightly syringed every fine day.—M. Busby, F.H.S.

Fruit Garden.—Get all pruning done amongst bush fruits, and let the ground be neatly dug over, manuring where required. Finish pruning pyramidal trees, and tie in espaliers. Where Apple trees are infested with American blight, scrape the injured parts over with a blunt knife, and then apply a dressing of soft soap, sulphur, quick lime, soot, and a little turpentine, mixed up with hot water, to the consistency of paint. Rub the mixture well over the trees with a small brush, getting it well into the wounded parts. Finish nailing Pears, Plums, Cherries, and Apricots. When Apricots begin to get forward with bloom, those who are advocates of protection, must begin to apply their contrivances. The only protection used here is a temporary board, from nine inches to a foot wide, fastened under the coping of the wall, to break the radiation of the heat, and to keep the trees dry. Next to this, is a roller fixed to the wall, with some light material, to let down at night and draw up by day; but such things as Fir boughs, or anything likely to shade the sun's rays, or keep the light from the blossoms, will be found objectionable, as they not only render the blossoms more tender, but so weaken them, that in many cases, the organs of fructification are not able to perform

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the functions allotted them. Peaches and Nectarines may be nailed, toward the latter part of the month, should the buds begin to swell. Strawberry beds may receive a good top-dressing of manure, but the soil will be better not disturbed more than an inch deep.—WILLIAM SHIPLEY, *Heywood Gardens, Westbury, Wilts.*

FUCHSIAS.—Encourage the growth of these by repotting, as often as required, liberal waterings, and a moist genial atmosphere. Manure water should be given occasionally. Decide upon the kind of plant you intend to grow. If of pyramidal form, the leading shoot must be allowed to take its course. If a compact bushy plant is required, the plant must be stopped at once, and occasionally, when the shoots have grown two or three eyes. If treated in this way, handsome plants may be secured, that will flower in July. Syringe the plants once or twice a day. Young stock may be increased by cuttings, which strike very freely at this season, in a little heat.—JOHN DOBSON, *Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth.*

HEATHERY.—Repot any plants that require it. Shift according to the kinds and strength, removing a nice well-rooted plant of Massoni, Feruginea, or Gemmifera, from a forty-eight to a twenty-four-sized pot. The more free-growing kinds may receive a larger shift, providing the pots are found to be well filled with healthy roots; but it is best to err on the right side, that is with the small pot. In potting, use plenty of drainage, and mix a little charcoal with the drainage and soil. See that no specimens suffer for want of water. Give air freely, night and day, on the lee side of the house, when the weather will admit, and be sparing of fire heat. Keep a sharp look out for mildew, and sulphur directly it is seen..—EDWARD CLEETON, *gardener to E. Holland, Esq., M.P.. Dumbleton.*

HOLLYHOCKS.—The growth of the Hollyhock is now being excited. Repot young plants preserved through the autumn, and by no means allow the roots to be cramped in small pots. Encourage their growth, by watering with weak liquid manure, once a week. Give plenty of air and no heat to established plants. Cuttings may now be inserted, kept in a close frame for a fortnight, and then placed on a slight bottom heat, to cause them to root. Still retain hand-glasses over plants in the open ground, removing the tops, to give all the air possible. A little sand, kept round the neck of the plants, is still beneficial. Fumigate plants in pots with tobacco, once or twice this month, and whenever the aphis appears. As it is well and necessary to remove old plants, that have stood in the same place for one, two, or three years, if the season will allow, I like to plant afresh, even this month.—WILLIAM CHATER, *Nurseries, Saffron Walden.*

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KITCHEN AND COTTAGE GARDEN.—Sow succession Peas. Bishop's New Longpod, height, two feet; Sutton's Early Goliath, four feet; Champion of England, six feet; and Auvergne, five feet, are all good sorts. Sow Broad Beans. Sow a pinch each of Cauliflower and Celery, on a slight hotbed; also a little Lettuce. Should the weather prove favourable, the principal crop of Onions may be got in, especially on light sandy soils, as, by sowing early on such soils, the roots have a better chance of striking deep, before the dry weather sets in. Leeks may be sown at the same time. A small sowing of Early Horn Carrot may be made, on a south border; or a few may be sown under glass, on a slight hotbed. Parsnips should not be sown later than this month; the sooner they are in the ground the better. Sow Radishes on a south border; also a little Round Spinach. Early Potatoes may be planted. Continue to cover up Seakale and Rhubarb with fermenting material, to get it forward. Get all digging and manuring done, before the busy time next month. Make fresh plantations of Rhubarb and Seakale. With regard to the best sorts of Rhubarb, Salt's Crimson Perfection, and Mitchell's Royal Albert may be safely recommended.—WM. SHIPLEY, *Westbury, Wilts.*

PANSIES intended to make specimens for exhibition, should be put into their blooming pots at once. The size of the pots must, of course, depend upon the restrictions placed upon them, by the managers of the different societies. If for home growth only, a six-inch pot will be found large enough to grow a plant able to produce from sixteen to twenty average-sized blooms at one time. When the plants are repotted, which should be in some good loamy soil, they may be placed in a frame, nearly close to the glass, and lowered as they grow. The plants must be kept dry for a few days. The first opportunity, give them a good watering, with a fine rose watering pot. After this, air must be abundantly given, every favourable opportunity. Pinch off all forward blooms, and remove decayed leaves. Watch plants in the beds, that they are not broken off by the wind.—JOHN DOBSON, *Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth.*

PELARGONIUMS.—The very mild weather has been the means of allowing an abundance of air to the plants, which is very unusual for this season of the year. Be cautious in not giving too much artificial heat. The plants will require daily attention. When much fire heat is given, they will dry very fast, and will, therefore, require looking over often. Give sufficient water to moisten the ball of earth throughout. By attention to this, the foliage may be preserved. A little weak liquid manure water may now be given with safety. Many of the earlier-blooming kinds will be making rapid progress in pushing up their trusses, and to encourage them in forming fine

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trusses, allow plenty of air among the shoots, and give the plants as much room as can be spared. The plants stopped back in December, should be shifted at once into their blooming pots. Those for exhibition, must be put in pots, as specified in the schedules. Young plants may be put in five or six-inch pots, according to the size of the plants. Pot them moderately firm. They will be much benefitted by being kept close for a few days, just to start them. If subject to the same treatment as the general stock, they are longer making a start. Manure water is necessary for the production of fine bloom, and to give a healthy green appearance to the foliage. I have tried several stimulants, but find the following the best and only one required, and I know many who have tried it with the same favourable results. One peck of sheep dung and half-a-peck of cow dung, to about twenty-five gallons of water, is all that is necessary. See to regulating the shoots; a regular head of bloom can only be secured by attention to this matter. Remove yellow and decayed leaves, as soon as they appear. Have an eye to the greenfly, and fumigate as soon as perceived.—JOHN DOBSON, *Woodlands Nurseries, Isleworth.*

POLYANTHUSES.—Early in the month, clean, dress up, and top these plants, similar to the Auricula. Use good loamy soil, with a little sand and rotted cow dung, well mixed together.—JOHN HEPWORTH, *Lea Bridge, Leyton.*

ROSES.—Some of the hardy kinds, as Moss, Provence, and Gallicas, may, towards the middle of the month, be pruned, leaving the Perpetuals, and especially the Teas, till March. In pruning, be guided by the habit of growth, generally cutting weak growers the closest. I often prune some kinds as late as the middle of April, and then cut to a single eye; and where there are, in the head of a Rose, a number of thin weak shoots, cut all but five or seven clean out, and shorten those left to two or three eyes at most.——*Roses in Pots.*—Some, if forced early, will be coming into bloom. Remove them to the coolest part of the house, to prolong their beauty. Take them in a few at a time, as required, keeping a sharp look out for greenfly, and the many enemies that attack the Rose on all sides. Young stock will still be in their winter quarters, and will only require occasional watering, and protection from severe frosts.—HENRY DAVIES, *Great Stanmore.*

TULIPS.—Continue to protect, as directed last month. Before the Tulips make their appearance, the bed should be arched over, and nothing is better or more convenient than rod iron, about half-an-inch in diameter, the middle part bent to form the section of a circle, and the two ends half-a-yard long, six inches of which may be inserted in the soil, outside the edging of the bed, and tiling laths tied along the ridge, and each side, at the bend of the rods.—T. ALLESTREE, *Draycott, near Derby.*

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## WOLVERHAMPTON AND WEDENSFIELD PANSY SOCIETY.

At the Pear Tree Inn, Wedensfield, June 8th, 1857.

NURSERYMEN.

Twenty-four Blooms.—1. T. Bayliss, Wolverhampton, Lady Jane (Bayliss), Princess (D. & Co.), Father Gavazzi (Holland), Captain Husband (Bayliss), Colonel Wyndham (Laing), Cyclops (Bayliss), Prince of Wales (Hooper), Cyrus (D. & Co.), Mrs. H. B. Douglas (D. & Laird), Admiral Dundas (P. & Small), J. B Gough (D. & Laird), Rebecca (S. & Middlemas), Napoleon (D. & Co.), Mrs. Ash (Bayliss), Satisfaction (Turner), Miss Talbot (D. & Co), Jolly Tar, Mrs. Moulding, Lord John Russell (Turner), Gem (S. & Middlemas), Eleanor, Rubens (D. & Co) 2. G Addis, Gospel-end, Sedgeley.

Twelve Blooms.—1. T Bayliss, Eugenia (D. & Co.), Duchess of Sutherland (Tunley), Princess (D. & Co.), Cyclops (Bayliss), Cyrus (D. & Co.), Countess of Rosalin (Laing), Lord John Russell (Turner), Miss Talbot (D. & Co.), Prince of Wales (Hooper), Admiral Dundas (P. & Small), Mrs. Briggs, and a seedling. 2. G. Addis, Sedgeley.

GARDENERS AND AMATEURS.

Twenty-four Blooms.—1. A. Bullock, Wolverhampton, Duke of Sutherland (Tunley), Miss Talbot (D. & Co.), Cyrus (D. & Co), Earl Mansfield (D. & Co.), Great Western (Hooper), J. B. Gough (D. & Laird), Father Gavazzi (Holland), Mrs. Dodwell (Fisher), Nonpariel (D. & Co.), Glory (Hampton), Royal Visit (D. & Co.), Magnificent (Schofield), Sir Charles Napier (P. & Small), Mrs. H. B. Douglas (D. & Laird), Lord Jeffry (Lightbody), Jeannie (D. & L.), Sir Colin Campbell (P. & Small), Adela (Turner), National (Turner), Sir J. Paxton (Bettridge), Brilliant (Turner), British Queen (D. & Co.), Satirist (Thomson). 2. H. Whittingham, Wolverhampton. 3. Mr. Jackson, Hilton Park. 4. G. Sadler, Wedensfield.

Twelve Blooms.—1. G. Sadler, Wedensfield, General Vernon (Sadler), Miss Caroline (Sadler), Alpheus (D. & Co.), Nonpariel (D. & Co.), Princess (D. & Co.), Cyrus (D. & Co.), Beauty (D. & Laird), Sir J. Cathcart (Turner), Miss Talbot (D. & Co.), Rev. H. Gosset (Turner), and a seedling. 2. H. Whittingham, Wolverhampton. 3. A. Bullock, Wolverhampton. 4. Jackson, Hilton Park. 5. S Green, Wolverhampton.

Six Blooms.—1. H. Whittingham, Wolverhampton, Mrs. Dodwell (Fisher), General Williams (Whittingham), Miss Talbot (D. & Co.), Gem (Grandison), Fair Maid (Whittingham), Cyrus (D. & Co.) 2. Jackson. 3. Green. 4. Bullock. 5. Sadler.

CLASSES, OPEN TO ALL.

First Dark Self.—General Vernon (Sadler), ex. ex., G. Sadler, Wedensfield.

First Yellow Self.—Mrs. Dodwell (Fisher), H. Whittingham, Wolverhampton.

First Yellow Ground.—Cyrus (D & Co.) Bullock.

First White Ground.—Beauty (D. & Laird), G. Sadler, Wedensfield.

Some very superior seedlings (not let out) were exhibited, the best were General Vernon (Sadler), dark self, ex. ex.; Cyclops (Bayliss), yellow ground, ex. ex.; Miss Caroline (Sadler), white ground, very fine; Fair Maid (Whittingham), white ground, fine; General Williams (Whittingham), straw ground, would be very desirable but for two shades of colour in the shield.

## PINK SHOW.

At Mr. Joseph Cook's, Waterloo Inn, Newcastle-under-Lyme, July 4.

Judges.—H. Penson, Hanchurch; and D. Brown, Newcastle.

*Purple-laced.*

Premier.—Huntsman, T. Bailey
1 Maugo, W. Griffiths
2 Auckland's Mary, ditto
3 Huntsman, ditto
4 Barker's John O'Gaunt, D. Bloor
5 Blackeyed Susan, ditto
6 Greensides, ditto
7 Beauty of Rochdale, Griffiths
8 Splendens, D Bloor

*Red-laced.*

Premier.—J. Sturge, W. Griffiths
1 Dan O'Rourke, E. Barker
2 Susanna, T. Bayley
3 J. Sturge, W. Griffiths
4 Mary Ellen, D. Bloor
5 Lady Antrobus, R. Moorley
6 Dr. Hepworth, T. Bailey
7 Criterion, W Griffiths
8 Dorothy, R. Moorley

*Black and White.*

Premier.—Blackeyed Susan, R. Moorley
1 Blackeyed Susan, R. Moorley
2 Beauty of Clayton, W. Griffiths
3 Beauty of Home, T. Bailey
4 Lillia, ditto
5 Virgin Queen, W. Griffiths
6 Lady Boldhaughton, ditto
7 Margaret, T. Bailey
8 Snowball, W. Griffiths

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# The Amateur's Orchard House.

THE cultivation of the finer varieties of fruits, in pots, under glass, is a subject which is attracting considerable attention at present, and most deservedly so. Mr. Rivers has opened up an inexhaustible field for the amateur gardener, in this department, and his estimates for the erection of orchard houses are adapted to the purses of all classes. I strongly recommend every amateur to read his little pamphlet, entitled *The Orchard House*, and only hope they will derive the same satisfaction which I experienced from its perusal. The author is quite enthusiastic in his work, and there are few persons, after conning the pages of his pleasant little book, but will feel inclined to try what is an accomplished fact at Sawbridgeworth, and many other places. Mr. Rivers did not first write and then practise, but has given the world the results of his experience, after a fair trial of the system. The orchard house being composed entirely of wood and glass—cheap materials—is erected with great facility and at a small cost. Mr. Rivers gives most minute directions how to go about building such a structure, and I am convinced, not many years will elapse, when, in Scotland at least, the amateur florist will not rest contented with his small greenhouse, but will also contrive to have his couple of dozen of fruit bushes, in his orchard house. A lean-to orchard house resembles a monster garden frame, with a door in the centre of one of the sides. A trench, thrown out eighteen inches deep, in the centre, from the



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door, gives head-room, and forms a path, leaving a border on each side, on which border our fruit bushes, in pots, stand, and, being near the glass, thrive to our heart's content. These borders are made loose and rich, by the addition of rotten manure, lime rubbish, and stones, to the depth of nine or ten inches. The holes at the bottoms of the pots are enlarged to five inches, with a light hammer, and the roots soon find their way into the rich border. When the trees have done their work, in the autumn, they are root pruned—that is, all the roots outside the pots are sliced off, with a sharp knife—the water withheld, and the bush put to rest, for the winter. But I must again refer my amateur friends to Mr. Rivers's delightful little work, for further information, and will simply detail an amateur's experience of fruit culture under glass, after twelve months' trial. I am an amateur florist, and never pruned a fruit tree in my life, till I became enlightened, through reading *The Orchard House;* and certainly Mr. Rivers makes little mystery about the matter. I became so impressed with the simplicity of the whole affair, that an orchard house, on a small scale, was resolved on. A Box-wood hedge, ten feet high, and sixteen feet in length, which, in former days, had sheltered a row of bee-hives, offered an inviting shelter from the north, and in front of it, I measured off the ground for my monster frame, or orchard house, which is fifteen feet in length and twelve in breadth, three feet high in front and seven feet six inches high at back. The trench in centre, to give head-room, as before described, and to form a path between the borders. The roof is glazed with large squares of glass, twenty inches by twelve, put in cross ways, into grooves in the rafters, and puttied inside and between the laps, to prevent drip and breakage during frost. Ventilation is most satisfactorily effected by a board, hung on hinges, at the top of the back, and which lets down the entire length of the house. The same in front and one of the ends, close to the ground. I gave the size of my house, and despatched my order to Mr. Rivers, for the fruit bushes,

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leaving the selection to himself, in January, 1857. They had been grown in pots previously, and were sent with the balls of earth attached, as taken out of the pots. Everything being in readiness, on their arrival, after loosening the balls of earth, they were carefully potted, top-dressed with some rich manure, and placed in their new quarters; and, when February arrived, taking advantage of a fine clear morning, they were watered, first sparingly, then the ball saturated, and, under the benign influence of the sun, the Apricots and Peaches soon began to show signs of returning animation. With the ventilators open, front and back, few persons would believe what a delightful climate the sun creates in such a house, although it shine but for a few minutes. And when the air is cold and frosty outside, with a bright sun, our orchard in miniature is not slow in showing what a powerful agent unassisted sun heat is, in opening the fragile and delicate Apricot blossom, and making every other variety to unfold its beauty, when its turn arrives. There is a delicacy and beauty in the blossom of fruit trees under glass which we are unaccustomed to observe out of doors. I would particularly direct the attention of the true florist to the blossom of the Irish Peach Apple, which is no mean model of what a fine florist's flower ought to be, if we take into consideration its shape, breadth of petal, substance, and purity of colour. Both the sense of sight and taste are gratified here, for the fruit is as beautiful as the flower, as waxy in external appearance and as fine in flavour as can be conceived. The Louise Bonne of Jersey Pear is another picture of beauty when in blossom, and the fruit, in point of size, flavour, and external appearance, unrivalled in its season. I lifted a small bush tree of this variety from the open ground, in January, 1857, potted it in a fourteen-inch pot, and it bore nine splendid specimens of fruit the same season. Pears (as well as all other fruits), however, cannot be too soon potted after the fall of the leaf. Many of them bear the first season after potting, if they have been properly managed previously. Mere de Menage

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Apple fruited here also, and deserves everything good to be said in its favour. At the great fruit show, held in London, last autumn, I observed it occupied a prominent position, and, although Mr. Rivers classes it as a kitchen variety, from its symmetrical shape, fine orange colour, and high flavour, it is not to be despised for the dessert, when grown under glass. Beurre d'Aremberg is a well known and excellent French Pear, and well worthy of a place in the orchard house. In point of external appearance it does not approach the Louise Bonne, but in point of flavour I believe it excels it; it could hardly be more melting, but it has this advantage, it is in season in January, the Louise Bonne in October. A Beurre d'Aremberg from under glass is an infinitely superior fruit to a Peach from the open wall, in ordinary seasons, in this climate at least. Marie Louise, Josephine de Maline, Winter Nelis, Beurre Berckmans, and Doyenne d'Hiver Noveau, are all excellent Pears for pot culture. Victoria Hulbert's seedling Apple is a beautiful small dessert variety, and a first-class keeper; also exceedingly prolific. Plums did not fruit with me; but I suspect I did not give them air enough when they were in bloom, for stone fruits, when setting, require very free aeration. Coe's Golden Drop, Golden Gage, Purple Gage, and, of course, the Green Gage, are all fine, and worthy subjects for pot culture. After the first week in June, the ventilators were entirely removed, till the end of October, and this plentiful ventilation is essential to the proper ripening, with flavour, of all fruits. If the bushes are overcrowded, Mr. Rivers has invariably found the fruit vapid and flavourless, and there should be a space of at least three feet from stem to stem, to have true justice done to the bushes. In our variable climate, where the fruit crop is a comparative uncertainty, from spring frosts, something more can still be done than I have yet detailed. (See *Orchard House*, p. 32, fourth edition.) An orchard house may be made to hold double the number of fruit bushes, by removing one-half in the first week in June, after all danger of spring frosts is past, with the fruit set, to a sheltered

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and sunny situation in the garden, and allowing them to ripen their fruit outside. A well-drained border, made rich and open, is necessary for the pots to stand upon and root into, and in ordinary seasons I believe success will be tolerably certain. Our cold springs are the bugbears we have to contend with, and overcome their evil influences and we are safe. In the climate of Scotland, and in many places in England also, the finer varieties of Apples, Pears, and Plums are worthy of a a trial in this way, for it is a very different matter to ripen fruits in pits, with their roots so completely under the solar influence, to the old style of handsome standards, with their roots working in cold clay, engendering all manner of diseases, and producing fruit so woody and gritty as to be positively unsafe to eat. Peaches, Apricots, and Cherries, their first season, all bore a sample of what they intend to produce in future years, and I have now added a pot Vine or two, dwarfed after Mr. Rivers's model. However we amateurs are sometimes too fond of experimenting, and, although Apples, Pears, and Plums may succeed, we can hardly, at least in our northern climate, without fire heat, expect much from Vines. There is a barrel, sunk in the ground, well covered outside with gas tar, which collects the rain that falls on the roof of the house, from a spout which runs along the front. With a gutta percha hose, furnished with a rose, the bushes are watered with facility. Syringing, night and morning, is essentially necessary, after the fruit is the size of a bean, to promote a healthy growth, and drive away redspider and other enemies, both green and black.

To conclude, the amateur florist will find an orchard house a great convenience in many ways. In early spring, he can bloom his seedling Pansies (if he should be a seedling raiser), in first-rate character, in such an airy place. Before the leaves come on the trees, pots of seedlings may be placed, without detriment, upon the large pots. They soon, in such circumstances, show flower, and anything promising can immediately be propagated, and the originals planted out. When the fruit



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bushes are pruned, in the autumn, their pots may be placed close together, which affords room to stow away an infinity of subjects, such as Fuchsias, Roses, Hollyhocks, and even Verbenas, which, if allowed to dry up, will stand a considerable degree of frost with impunity. After two nights, with the thermometer at twenty degrees outside, Fuchsias inside the orchard house, with their shoots beautifully ripened, are uninjured. Tea Roses the same; and a plant of Mrs. Woodroffe Verbena, left there by accident, is also unhurt. But these are all in a thoroughly dry, dormant state. When such an erection can be put together and stocked with fruit bushes for about fifteen pounds, I can hardly say more in its favour; for to the busy man, as a means of mental relaxation, its management affords a constant source of pleasure and amusement, not to speak of the wholesome sympathies which are awakened by pursuits so innocent and harmless.

C. S.

*Berwickshire, N.B.*

## The Petunia.

THE common white Petunia, a flower with a tube, and a broad flat surface round it, like a convolvulus squeezed flat, was introduced about 1823, from the Brazils. Mr Tweedie afterwards introduced the purple one, in 1830, from Buenos Ayres, and from these two we have endless varieties, some larger and better than the original; and all those retained are presumed to have some claim on the score of novelty; but many have great faults, and there is not a flower more requires weeding of worthless sorts. The facility of raising them from seed will prevent any but first-rate flowers from being reckoned choice. The plant is at first bushy and handsome, but it grows very rapidly, soon becomes straggling and ugly, and requires to be cut back, or supported by a frame or sticks. We have

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every shade, from deep purple to light blue, and from deep crimson to pink, every imaginary tint. Many of the varieties have been thought worthy of names; but not half attention enough has been paid to the qualities of the sorts so honoured. The Petunia is capable of being brought to a shrubby habit, yet one half of them require tying up to supports. They are by no means graceful climbing plants, even at their best; and gardeners, who have endeavoured to show their skill, by making a specimen cover a large space, have rather exhibited mechanical ingenuity, which is no part of their province, than upheld their reputation in their own profession. The following are the properties:—

1. A Petunia should have strong stems and a close habit—large, thick, round, and flat flowers; abundance of bloom, while short and handsome.

2. The colour or shade is a matter of taste; but such is the fancy of people in these days, that a new ugly colour would be thought more of than an old handsome one.

*Glenny's Properties of Flowers and Plants.*

## Select Lists of Florists' Flowers.

IN former years, the conductors of the *Midland Florist* have been enabled, by the kindness of friends, to give lists of the best florists' flowers for exhibition and general cultivation. We have again appealed to our friends, and have received a large number of lists, which, we believe, will be found very valuable to the majority of our readers.

The Tulips comprise lists from Joseph Hunt, Esq., High Wycombe; the Rev. Samuel Creswell, Radford Vicarage; Mr. Allestree, Draycott; Mr. W. R. Lymbery, St. Ann's Hill, Nottingham; Mr. Walker, of Winton; Mr. Hepworth, of Lea Bridge; and J. B., an extensive grower, in one of the midland counties. The Dahlia lists are from Mr. Bragg, nurseryman, Slough;

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Mr. Legge, of Edmonton; Mr. Edwards, of Nuthall; and a southern grower.

We have numerous lists of Roses, Carnations, Picotees, &c., which, for want of space, we are obliged to defer till future numbers.

We shall be happy to receive lists from any of our friends who will be kind enough to favour us.

## TULIPS.

### MR. T. ALLESTREE'S LIST.

#### BIZARRES.

| *Feathered.* | *Flamed.* |
|---|---|
| Duke of Devonshire | Pilot |
| Sovereign | Dutch Catafalque |
| George Hayward | Eldorado |
| Saxon | Sir Joseph Paxton |
| King (Willison) | Vivid |
| Polyphemus | Royal Albert |
| Gold Cup | Everard |
| Prime Minister | Rear Admiral |

#### BYBLŒMENS.

| *Feathered.* | *Flamed.* |
|---|---|
| Maid of Orleans | Salvator Rosa (Brown) |
| Chellaston Beauty | Salvator Rosa (Allen) |
| King Robert Bruce | Nepaulese Prince |
| Purity (Cotterill) | Lorenzo |
| Gem | Duch. of Sutherland (Walker) |
| Victoria Regina | Thalia |
| Sarah Ann | Blœmart |
| Queen of the South | Venus (Gibbons) |

#### ROSES.

| *Feathered.* | *Flamed.* |
|---|---|
| Heroine | Triomphe Royale |
| Aglaia | Aglaia |
| Napoleon | Lac |
| Bion | Catalini |
| Joan of Arc | Lady Catherine Gordon |
| Mary Lamb | Mountain Sylph |
| Agnes | Juliana |
| Miss O'Neill | Rose Celestial |

### REV. S. CRESWELL'S LIST.

With much pleasure, and in accordance with your desire, I have forwarded a list, containing forty-eight of the best first-class Tulips I have seen, during the last two years. The whole

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are pure, and splendid markers, Several are new sorts, of which there are not more than one or two bulbs broken.

BIZARRES.

Henry Groom, fl. } (Groom)
Dr. Horner, f. }
Everard, fl. (Bowler)
Masterpiece, f. (Slater)
Nourri Effendi fl. (Groom)
Marquis of Bristol, f. (Groom)
Geo. Hayward, f. (Lawrence)
Merit, fl. (Gibbons), narrow beam, bright red
King, fl. (Strong)
Pilot, fl. (Gibbons), dull red, broad beam
Sir J. Paxton, f. (Willison)
Sphinx, f. (Sanders)
Paul Pry, f. (New)
Prince of Wales, fl. (Groom)
Rear Admiral, fl. (Perriam)
Dr. Sanders, f. (Turner)

BYBLŒMENS.

Duch. of Cambridge, f. (Groom)
Queen of the South, f. (Hunt)
Byzantium, f. (Lawrence)
Gem, f. (Abbott)
Salvator Rosa, fl. (Brown)
Duch. of Sutherland, fl (Walker)
Kirke White, fl. (Gibbons)
Blœmart, fl
Maid of Orleans, f. (Gibbons)
Prince of Wales, f. (Creswell, of Stanton)
Duke of Orleans, fl. (Toone)
Victoria Regina, f. (Groom)
Sarah Anne, fl. (Allen)
Princess Royal, fl. (Gibbons)
Bishop of Lincoln, f., } seedlings (Creswell, of Radford)
Miss Creswell, f., }

Prince of Wales won the premier prize, at the national exhibition, at Birmingham, in 1852.

ROSES.

Mary Lamb, f. (Zuill)
Agnes Creswell, f., seedling (Thackeray)
Fleur de Marie, fl. (Groom)
Mrs. Neilson, f., seedling (Zuill)
Seraph, fl. (Thackeray)
Miss Eliza Seymour, fl., seedling (Groom)
Heroine, f.
Joan of Arc, f. (Naylor)
Vicar of 'Radford, f. and fl. (Thackeray)
Napoleon, f., seed. (Thackeray)
Lady Clifton, f. (Jackson)
Rose Celestial, f. (Barlow)
Lady Catherine Gordon, fl.
Aglaia, f.
Miss O'Neill, f., seedling (Zuill)
Fanny Ellsler, f., seedling (Goldham)

Agnes won the premier prize, at Birmingham, in 1852. Vicar of Radford, flamed rose, was first in the class, at the same national show.

## MR. J. HEPWORTH'S LIST.

I give you a list of Tulips, which I think will prove satisfactory to your readers. It comprises twelve feathered and twelve flamed roses, twelve feathered and twelve flamed byblœmens, twelve dark feathered and twelve dark flamed bizarres, and twelve red feathered and ten red flamed bizarres. We ought to have a separate class for red or scarlet bizarres, and likewise

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for dark colours upon a yellow ground, same as for two colours upon a white ground. byblœmen and rose. In a little while, I shall have something to say on this subject, as it is now becoming a matter of importance, and it is my opinion that two out of three of the growers are anxious to have separate classes for the dark and light bizarres.

## ROSES.

| *Feathered.* | *Flamed.* |
|---|---|
| Rose Aglaia No. 1 | Ariadne (Franklin) |
| Claudiana No. 1 | Bacchus |
| Cerise Blanche | Cerise a Belle Forme |
| Circe (Kemburgh) | Duch. of Sutherland (Groom) |
| Fanny Cerito (Gibbons) | Gem (Battersby) |
| Heroine, or Feathered Triomphe Royale | Gem (Pinder) |
| Manteau Ducale No. 1 | Helen (Headly) |
| Mary Lamb (Zuill) | Jenny Lind (Hayward) |
| Ponceau Tres Blanc | La Vandicken |
| Rose Helen (Hepworth) | Lady Stanley (Gibbons) |
| Rose Arlette (Dixon) | Manteau Ducale No. 2, *alias* Cerise Royale |
| Rose Brilliant | Lac True |

## BYBLŒMENS.

| *Feathered.* | *Flamed.* |
|---|---|
| Belinda (Zuill) | Blœmart |
| David No. 1 | Duch. of Sutherland (Walker) |
| General Barneveldt | Grace Darling (Gibbons) |
| Godet Parfait No. 1 | Major Beauclerk (Airzies) |
| Mrs. H. B. Stowe (broke from a Chellaston) | Mentor |
| Lewold No. 1 | Napoleon (Reid) |
| Maid of Orleans (Gibbons) | Princess Royal (Gibbons) |
| Queen of the North (Hepworth) | Queen Charlotte |
| Reine de Tulips (Jaques) | Salvator Rosa (Brown) |
| Sir Harry Smith (May) | Salvator Rosa (Gibbons) |
| Violet Quarto | Thalia (Clark) |
| Violet Amiable (Haigh) | Tintoretti (Brown) |

## BIZARRES.

| *Dark Feathered.* | Platoff (Bartlett) |
|---|---|
| Surpass Catafalque | Samson (Dark) |
| Old Dutch Catafalque | Ulysses (Brown) |
| Catafalque Superieure, *alias* Rising Sun | *Dark Flamed.* |
| Duke of Devonshire | Charbonnier Noir |
| Hector (Battersby) | Charbonnier Rectified |
| King (Willison) | Charles Brown (Brown) |
| Leonidas | Cossack (Dark) |
| Lord Lilford (Compton) | Donzelli (Lawrence) |
| Polyphemus No. 1 (Lawrence) | Fanny Kemble (S. M. S.) |
| | King (Delaforce) |

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Lord John Russell (S. M. S.)
Marcellus (Baron)
Memnon (Clark)
Pompe Funebre
Shakspere (Lawrence)

*Red Feathered.*

Abercrombie, or Feathd. Sanzio
Charles Jeffrey (Hepworth)
Colbert (Slater)
Duke of Hamilton
Elizabeth (Cotterill)
George Hayward (Lawrence)
King (Strong)
Louis Philippe (S. M. S.)
Magnum Bonum
Marshal Soult (Groom)
Robin Hood (Battersby)
Vivid No. 1 (Sanders)

*Red Flamed.*

Canning (Strong)
Coronation (Walker)
Captain Sleigh (Gibbons)
Doctor Franklin (Disney)
Everard (Bowler)
King No. 2 (Strong)
President (Hepworth)
Titian No. 1 (Strong)
Vivid No. 2 (Sanders)
William (Thorne)

## MR. J. HUNT'S LIST.

I forward you a list of Tulips. Doubtless there are some better varieties amongst the newly broken flowers, but I have confined my list to the sorts I grow myself.

### BIZARRES.

Charles Brown
Delaforce's King
Glory of Abingdon
Masterpiece
Pilot
Strong's Queen
Sphynx
Ulysses
Colbert
Everard
George Haward
Polyphemus
Royal Sovereign
Shakspere
Sir Joseph Paxton
Vivid

### BYBLŒMENS.

Abbott's Gem
Byzantium
David
Maid of Orleans
Pandora
Queen of the North
Salvator Rosa
Violet Quarto
Blœmart
Chellaston Beauty
Musidora
Mrs. Norman
Gibbons's Princess Royal
Queen Charlotte
Thalia
Walker's Duch. of Sutherland

### ROSES.

Anastasia
Bion
Cerise Belle Forme
Camuse de Craix
Heroine
Kate Connor
Lady Catherine Gordon
Triomphe Royale
Arlette
Brulant Eclatant
Claudiana
Groom's Duch. of Sutherland
King of Saxony
Lady Stanley
Mary Lamb
Vestris

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## J. B.'S LIST.

### BIZARRES.

| | |
|---|---|
| Duke of Devonshire, f. | Sobraon, f. (Battersby) |
| Truth, f. (Bromley) | Platoff |
| Great Britain, f. (Lymbery) | Saxon, f. (Battersby) |
| Apelles, f. | King, fl. (Strong) |
| Warden, f. (Battersby) | Pilot, fl. (Gibbons) |
| Vivid, f. (Sanders) | Sir J. Paxton, fl. (Willison) |
| Charles X., f. | Captain White, fl. |
| J. Sanderson, f. (Willison) | Polyphemus, fl. |

### BYBLŒMENS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Qu. of the North, f. (Hepworth) | Godet Parfait, f. |
| General Barneveldt, f. | Maid of Sherwood, f. (Battersby) |
| Nora Creina, f. | Salvator Rosa, fl. (Brown) |
| Exile, f. | Thalia, fl. (Clarke) |
| Maid of Orleans, f. (Gibbons) | Violet Alexander, fl. |
| David, f. | Queen Charlotte |
| Gem, f. (Abbott) | Queen of Sheba, fl. |
| Royal George, f. (Milner) | Salvator Rosa, fl. (Gibbons) |

### ROSES.

| | |
|---|---|
| Rose Bacchus, f. | Lavinia, f. |
| Aglaia, f. | Kate Connor, f. |
| Mary Lamb, f. | Claudiana, f. |
| Heroine, f. | Rose Camillus, fl. |
| Juliet, f. (Willison) | Camilla, fl. (Battersby) |
| Virginia, f. (Dixon) | Aglaia, fl. |
| Gem, f. (Battersby) | Lady Catherine Gordon, fl. |
| Vicar of Radford, f. | Duchess of St. Albans, fl. |

### TRICOLORS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Duke of Clarence, fl, | Curtius (Sanders) |
| Duke of Bedford, fl. | Victory, f. (Sharp) |
| Apelles, fl. | King, fl. (Walker) |

## MR. J. WALKER'S LIST.

### BIZARRES.

| *Feathered.* | *Flamed.* |
|---|---|
| Centurion (Walker) | Sobraon (Battersby) |
| Robin Hood (Battersby) | San Joe, *alias* Capt. White, &c. |
| Sobraon (Battersby) | Duke of Devonshire |
| Masterpiece (Slater) | Vivid (Sanders) |
| J. Sanderson (Willison) | Pilot (Gibbons) |
| Dr. Horner (Groom) | Polyphemus |
| Charles X., *alias* Platoff, &c. | Charles X. |
| Duke of Devonshire | Dutch Catafalque |

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BYBLŒMENS.

| *Feathered.* | *Flamed.* |
|---|---|
| Queen of Sherwood (Battersby) | Duch. of Sutherland (Walker) |
| Gem of Gems (Willison) | First-rate (Spencer) |
| Queen of the West (Morris) | Queen Charlotte |
| Maid of Orleans (Gibbons) | Elthiron (Lawrence) |
| David No. 1 | Queen of the North |
| Dictator (Morris) | David No. 2 |
| Violet Amiable | Violet Alexander |
| Queen of the North | Alexander Magnus |

ROSES.

| *Feathered.* | *Flamed.* |
|---|---|
| Mary Headly (Headly) | John Waterstone (Zuill) |
| Gem (Battersby) | Kate Connor |
| Miss Ada | Fanny Cerito |
| Kate Connor | Fanny Ellsler (Goldham) |
| Heroine | Flora M'Donald (Reid) |
| Ondine (Walker) | Mountain Sylph (Holmes) |
| Joe Maltby | Lady Caroline Gordon |
| John Zuill (Zuill) | Village Maid (Crompton) |

## MR. W. R. LYMBERY'S LIST.

In answer to your request for a list of forty-eight of the *best* show varieties of Tulips, I have selected the following, which, in my humble opinion, deserve the first rank in their respective classes. They are all perfectly pure, and as dissimilar in colour and character as possible. Still I am quite sure there are others of equal merit, though, not having grown them, I cannot speak of them from positive experience, which I think every person should do, in furnishing such lists.

BIZARRES.

| *Feathered.* | *Flamed.* |
|---|---|
| Willison's King | Pilot (Gibbons) |
| John Haward (Lawrence) | President (Hepworth) |
| Masterpiece (Slater) | Everard (Bowers) |
| Thomas Brown | Strong's King |
| Sir J. Paxton (Willison) | Polyphemus |
| Great Britain (New) | Mr. Parkins (Turner) |
| Paul Pry (New) | Rear Admiral (Perriam) |
| Vivid (Sanders) | Merit (Gibbons) |

BYBLŒMENS.

| *Feathered.* | |
|---|---|
| Nepaulese Prince (Lymbery) | Violet Amiable |
| Irene | Queen of the South (Hunt) |
| Maid of Orleans (Gibbons) | Byzantium (Lawrence) |
| Gem (Abbott) | Chellaston Beauty (Gibbons) |



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*Flamed.*

Nepaulese Prince
Blanch Violet
Lorenzo (Lymbery, Bayley)
Lady Denman
Salvator Rosa (Gibbons)
Blœmart (Groom)
Princess Royal (Gibbons)
Sarah Ann (Gibbons)

ROSES.

*Feathered.*

Lady Clifton (Jackson)
Kate Connor (Slater)
Mary Lamb
Heroine
Arlette
Agnes Creswell (Thackeray)
Vicar of Radford
Rose Aglaia

*Flamed.*

Rose Lac
Fleur de Marie (Groom)
Vicar of Radford
Geraldine (Dixon)
Rose Bacchus
Lady Catherine Gordon
Lady Wildair
Triomphe Royale

## DAHLIAS.

### A SOUTHERN GROWER'S LIST.

Cherub
Lady Popham
Lady Franklin
Lollipop
Lord Palmerston
Colonel Windham
Pandora
Lord Bath
Perfection
Satirist
Midnight
Roland
Touchstone
Royal Scarlet
Pre-eminent
Sir F. Bathurst
Dr. Gully
Fairy Queen
Amazon
Yellow Beauty
Constancy
Eclipse
Grand Sultan
Sir Charles Napier

FANCIES.

Lady Paxton
Baron Alderson
Cleopatra
Charles Perry
Duchess of Kent
Comet
Inimitable
Imperatrice Eugenie
Magician
Miss Frampton
Pigeon
Gloire de Kain

### MR. W. BRAGG'S LIST.

Lady Franklin (Rawlings)
Roland (Bush)
Royal Scarlet (Keynes)
Edward (Keynes)
Perfection (Keynes)
Lord Palmerston (Turner)
Lady Popham (Turner)
Touchstone (Fellowes)
Beauty of Slough (Bragg)
Saturn (Turner)
Colonel Windham (Turner)
Captain Ingraham (Stein)
Midnight (Fellowes)
Sir Charles Napier (Hale)

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Mrs. Wheeler (Wheeler)
Pre-eminent (Fellowes)
Rachel Rawlings (Rawlings)
Lollipop (Holmes)
Sidney Herbert (Keynes)
Fanny Dodds (Keynes)
Sir F. Bathurst (Keynes)
Delta (Turner)
Amazon (Holmes)
Cherub (Holmes)

FANCIES.

Lady Paxton (Dodds)
Carnation (Keynes)
Charles Perry (Keynes)
Baron Alderson (Perry)
Cleopatra (Salter)
Inimitable (Salter)
Conqueror (Keynes)
Triomphe de Roubaix (Bousine)
Souter Johnny (Keynes)
Miss Herbert (Dodds)
Tam O'Shanter (Dodds)
Comet (Keynes)

## MR. RICHARD EDWARDS'S LIST.

Cherub
Lady Popham
Lady Franklin
Lollipop
Lord Palmerston
Colonel Windham
Pandora
Lord Bath
Amazon
Eleanor
Dr. Gully
Lord Cardigan
Mrs Wheeler
Perfection
Rachel Rawlings
Royal Scarlet
Pre-eminent
Sir F. Bathurst
Touchstone
Dictator
Yellow Beauty
Grand Sultan
Fanny Dodds
Constancy

FANCIES.

Baron Alderson
Cleopatra
Comet
Charles Perry
Carnation
Duchess of Kent
Margaret
Tam O'Shanter
Lady Franklin
Topsy
Miss Frampton
Eugenia

## MR. H. LEGGE'S LIST.

Amazon (Turner)
Admiral Dundas (Lawton)
Annie Salter (Salter)
Annie (Rawlings)
Beauty of Grove (Burgess)
Colonel Windham (Turner)
Cherub (Holmes)
Lady Popham (Turner)
Lady Franklin (Rawlings)
Lord Cardigan (Dodds)
Lollipop (Holmes)
Lilac King (Rawlings)
Lord Bath (Wheeler)
Midnight (Fellowes)
Mrs. Legge (Legge)
Perfection (Keynes)
Princess (Rea)
Robert Bruce (Drummond)
Sir J. Franklin (Turner)
Sir Charles Napier (Turner)
Touchstone (Fellowes)
Lord Palmerston (Turner)
Roland (Bush)
Louisa Glenny (Rawlings)

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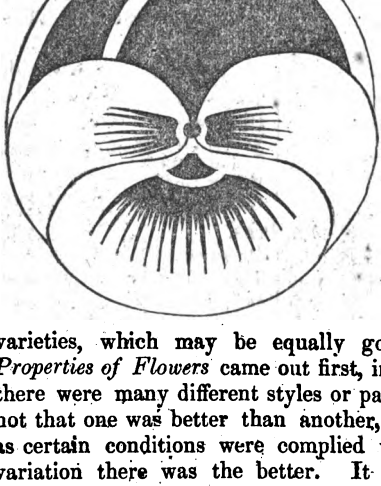
FANCIES.

| | |
|---|---|
| Butterfly (Salter) | Imperatrice Eugenie |
| Conqueror (Keynes) | Lady Paxton (Keynes) |
| Cleopatra (Salter) | Lady Scott Douglas (Keynes) |
| Carnation (Keynes) | Princess Charlotte (Salter) |
| Fancy King (Legge) | Triomphe de Roubaix (Salter) |
| Inimitable (Salter) | Baron Alderson (Perry) |

## Properties of the Pansy, or Heartsease.



IN introducing the subject of the Pansy, it must be recollected that the diagram only represents one remarkable feature out of a score; for the perfect edging the dense self colour, the venous bands, blotches, and the differently formed eyes, are so many varieties, which may be equally good. When the *Properties of Flowers* came out first, in distinct papers, there were many different styles or patterns illustrated; not that one was better than another, but that, so long as certain conditions were complied with, the greater variation there was the better. It is not pretended that the diagram is like any flower we have, but the varied sports of the family indicated a certain style, and the illustration is only to show what such a flower ought to be, to reach perfection. Many a stupid man has fancied that he could define things better. One was silly enough to say that the eye should be in the centre; but this would restrict the varieties, for some of the most pleasing have the eye lower or higher than the

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centre, and we purposely left it undefined. The same wiseacre tried to show that the side petals ought to meet at the back, and had other stupid crotchets, that nobody paid the least attention to. Mark well the points that we laid down in 1832, before anybody believed it could be made circular, and you will find that we left nothing undone that could improve the flower.

1. It should be round, flat, and smooth at the edge, every notch, or serrature, or unevenness, being a blemish.

2. The petals should be thick, and of a rich velvety texture, standing out firm and flat without support.

3. Whatever may be the colours, the ground colour of the three lower petals should be alike: whether it be white, yellow, straw colour, plain, fringed, or blotched, there should not in these three petals be a shade difference in the principal colour.

4. Whatever may be the character of the marks or darker pencillings on the ground colour, they should be bright, dense, distinct, and retain their character, without running or flushing, or mixing with the ground colour; and the white, yellow, or straw colour should be pure.

5. The two upper petals should be perfectly uniform, whether dark or light, or fringed, or blotched. The two petals immediately under them should be alike; and the lower petal, as before observed, must have the same ground colour and character as the two above it; and the pencilling or marking of the eye, in the three lower petals, must not break through to the edges.

6. In size there is a distinct point, when coarseness does not accompany it; in other words, if flowers are equal in other respects, the larger is the better; but no flower should be shown under one inch and a half across.

General Remarks.—Ragged edges, crumpled petals, indentures on the petal, indistinct markings or pencillings, and flushed or run colours, are great blemishes; but if there be one ground colour to the lower petal and another colour to the side ones, or if there be two shades of ground colour at all, it is not a show flower, though many such are improperly tolerated. Of course, the yellow eye is not considered ground colour. In selecting new varieties, not one



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should be let out that has the last-mentioned blemish, and none should be sold that do not very closely approach the circular form. One of the prevailing faults in the (so called) best flowers, is the smallness of the centre yellow or white, and the largeness of the eye, which breaks through it into the border. We are so severe in these matters ourselves, that we count the very best of them no bloom, in summing up the good ones; there are few stands, even of thirty-six, that contain twelve good show flowers. The hare-lip, as Mr. Davis, in a descriptive catalogue, called the indentation at the bottom of a Pansy, is a very common fault, and often belongs not to the true character of a flower. When a Pansy is opening, this is the first bit that is exposed, and the cold winds, hot sun, or blight will attack it, and check the growth, while the rest of the bloom developes itself, and thus leaves a notch or indentation, though the same flower, if not blighted, will come whole and perfect in the bottom petal. The Pansy is one of the flowers that is, perhaps, the furthest of any removed from its original form, to meet the once supposed impossible shape, given out as the model of excellence, by the Metropolitan Society of Florists and Amateurs, for whose guidance we wrote the paper; and those who remember the once favourite Lord John Russell, that was deemed a gem in its way, and compare that five-armed windmill with the circular blooms of the present day, will not wonder at the incredulity of those who thought a circular flower impossible.

GEORGE GLENNY.

## Annuals.

IN connection with out-door operations, perhaps no month in the year calls for so much activity as March. The rotation of crops, and planning the whole of the garden for the season, is work which must be attended to by all. The amateur who has had his ground dug and made ready for planting, will busy himself in his garden, endeavouring to outvie his neighbours in display, during the coming season, by sowing and planting such things as he thinks will make the

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greatest show. In short, it is the gardener's busiest month. As the *Midland Florist* is a work in which the amateur seeks for instruction, and the pages of which must be at all times interesting to him, if we are to believe the flattering terms in which everybody is speaking of it, I feel certain that I shall be excused, if I bring up the subject of annuals, a matter well treated on, in the last volume. However, as I believe there is always a certain class seeking for information, and who may not have read the excellent remarks made at that time, I venture to make my little experience upon this point known. In the cultivation of hardy annuals, it is necessary to be watchful for slugs, which are very destructive to the young plants, and must be kept down. Little skill is required in growing them, provided the soil is suitable. It should not be too heavy or damp. I usually prepare a little light mould, to sow the seed in, just to give it a fair start. A judicious arrangement of colour, and introducing such kinds as, from their height, will ensure a uniformity of appearance, is an item which must not be overlooked. Nothing can be more pleasing than a careful attention in this respect. In the following list, I have thought it necessary to give the colour and height, that it may be some criterion in sowing the seed. In sowing annuals, I usually make a ring, with a piece of wood, or my finger, about a foot in diameter, sow the seed, and cover it over with a little of the prepared mould, placing the name in the centre. But previous to making the ring, I ascertain the height the plant grows, and make it accordingly. For instance, if the seed is the Nemophila insignis, I find it grows six inches high, and should be sown six inches from the edge of the bed or border. This plan I adopt throughout. Of course, when the space is limited, and tall-growing kinds are introduced, it cannot be done, but it may be taken as a general rule. As soon as the plants get strong, they must be thinned out. This is necessary, for overcrowding plants, either in-doors or out, has its peculiar reward. This part of the subject is too often overlooked, by many persons, who think that the more plants there are, the more bloom must of necessity come; but that is an error. Before thinning out, ascertain the habit of the plant. For instance, the Lobelia gracilis is of small growth, and requires but little thinning; the Nemophila, of somewhat stronger growth, requires more thinning—the plants should be two or three inches apart; of Lupins, a dozen in a patch will be plenty, while stronger growing kinds should be limited to five or six. Many of the compact growing kinds of annuals make very nice beds, such as the Nemophila insignis, Platystemon Californicum, Larkspur, Indian Pink, Collinsia bicolor, and others of that growth. Tender, or half hardy annuals, should be raised in a little heat, and potted off, when large enough, to get strong, previous to being planted where they are to bloom. Biennials which do not bloom the first year, should be sown out-of-doors, in beds, and when large enough, transplanted into other beds,

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till they are required to be planted where they are to bloom. The following list will be found to contain those most suitable for an amateur's garden, having proved themselves superior to all others. The lover of novelties will always find plenty of such, by referring to the advertisements.

## HARDY ANNUALS.

**These may be sown the second week in March, where they are to bloom.**

*Adonis Flos.*—Scarlet. Four feet.
*Bartonia Aurea.*—Yellow. Eighteen inches.
*Campanula Pentagonia.*—Blue. Nine inches.
*Calliopsis Tinctorius and Drummondii.*—Yellow and dark. Eighteen inches. Very useful and attractive.
*Candytuft Crimson and White Rocket.*—One foot. An old but general favourite.
*Clarkia Elegans.*—Lilac. Eighteen inches.
*Convolvulus Minor.*—Blue and white. One foot.
*Convolvulus Major.*—Various colours. Climber.
*Collinsia Bicolor.*—Pale blue and white. One foot. One of the best annuals grown.
*Erysimum Perowskianum.*—Yellow. Eighteen inches.
*Eutoca Viscida.*—Blue. One foot.
*Gilia Tricolor.*—Three colours. One foot.
*Helianthus Californicus.*—Yellow. Three feet. Suitable for large borders.
*Hibiscus Africanus.*—Yellow and brown. Eighteen inches.
*Indian Pink.*—Various. Nine inches. Very pretty.
*Ipomea Burridgii.*—Crimson. Climber.
*Larkspur, Dwarf Rocket,* one foot, and *Tall Rocket,* two feet. Various colours.
*Lupinus Nanus.*—White and blue. One foot. Very pretty.
*Lupinus Hartwegii Alba.*—Blue and white. Eighteen inches.
*Lupins.*—Yellow. Fifteen inches. White. Eighteen inches.
*Nemophila Insignis.*—Blue. Nine inches. Indispensable
*Nemophila Maculata.*—Purple, spotted. Nine inches.
*Nolana Paradoxa.*—Blue and white. One foot.
*Persicaria.*—Red. One foot.
*Peulta Nankinensis.*—Handsome foliage.
*Platystemon Californicus.*—Yellow. Six inches.
*Saponaria Calabrica.*—Red. Six inches.
*Sweet Peas.*—These are indispensable in every garden. Thirty inches.
*Sweet Sultans,* in varieties, are useful. Eighteen inches.
*Viscaria Oculata.*—Rose, with dark eye. One foot.
*Venus's Looking-glass.*—Various. One foot.

## HALF HARDY ANNUALS

Are those that require raising in heat, and planting off into seed pans, or pots, to get strong. The small kinds of seeds must be sown with great care. A little silver sand sprinkled over the seed, I find the best. The soil must never be too dry or too wet, or the seed will perish. In watering, also, great care is necessary, not to wash the seed over the pot.

*Acroclinium Roseum*—Rose. Very pretty. Similar to Rhodanthe Manglesii.
*Asters, China and German,* make an excellent display in the autumn.
*Clintonia Elegans.*—Blue.

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*Linum Grandiflorum Rubrum.*—Scarlet. The seed of this plant, previous to being sown, should be steeped for a short time in luke-warm water, which will cause it to germinate more easily.
*Mesembryanthemum Tricolor.*—A pretty compact-growing plant.
*Marigold.*—The Dwarf, French, Striped, and Lemon and Orange African are the best.
*Phlox Drummondii.*—Various colours.
*Portulaca Thellusonii.*—Crimson.
*Rhodanthe Manglesii.*—Pink.
*Salpiglossis.*—Mixed, various colours.
*Stocks, German and Ten-week.*
*Tropæolum Canariensis.*—Yellow. Climber.
*Zinnia Elegans Coccinnea.*—Scarlet.

The following useful biennials and perennials should be sown out-of-doors, the latter end of the month, and transplanted into beds, and again planted where they are to bloom in the autumn:—Anemone, Aquilegia, Alyssum saxatile, Canterbury Bell, Delphinium formosum, Fraxinella, Lupinus polyphyllus, Potentilla, Polyanthus, Rocket, Sweetwilliam, Scarlet Lychnis.

JOHN DOBSON.

*Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth.*

# Calendar of Operations.

AURICULAS.—Protect the plants as previously recommended. When the stems, with trusses, have grown sufficiently out of the heart of the plant for you to notice deformed pips, with a sharp knife, take these out, as well as some of the smaller ones, so as to leave sufficient room for the remainder to develope themselves. Water with soft water, and cover up at sunset.—JOHN HEPWORTH, *Leyton.*

AZALEAS.—Plants, which have commenced their growth, must be repotted, and encouraged by a gentle heat, in a pit, or recently-started forcing-house. Syringe freely in the mornings and afternoons of fine days. Azaleas, generally, owing to the mild winter, are forward this season, so those who intend to keep any to exhibit in June or July, must begin to retard in time.—EDWARD CLEETON, *gardener to E. Holland. Esq., M.P.*

CARNATIONS AND PICOTEES.—March is a month in which the florist becomes at once busy. Plants are emerging from the sleep of winter, and are growing apace. Carnation and Picotee soil should be carefully attended to, and kept in a moderately dry state, ready for planting, whenever the weather is favourable. My plan has been as follows:—If the weather is open, I commence planting out, early in the month, all my choice varieties, to the extent of one-half of my collection, in pots, and, with the other half of the pots, cover up, for some time, those that have been planted out, which is a great advantage, taking the pots off whenever the weather is fine, and letting them, as

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well as those remaining in the frame, have any fine warm rain that may come, and covering up when snow or hail falls, as well as every night. At the latter end of the month, plant out the remainder, and cover the surface of the soil, about an inch thick, with some nice half-rotted dung. This will prevent the soil from being dried up by the east winds, and keep the roots of the plants warm, and, at the same time, if rain fall, it will wash a portion of the manure into the soil, and cause the roots of the plants to strike down to the bottom of the pot, and thereby suffer little from droughty weather, and the bloom will be much finer. Above all things, drain well with broken pots, and cover them with a thin layer of manure, which will keep the crocks from being choked up with soil.—JOHN SLATER.

CHRYSANTHEMUMS.—*Large varieties* put in as cuttings, in November, should now be potted off, and in doing this, be particular to rub out all eyes, at the bottom, round the roots, that are likely to produce suckers, before repotting. This will prevent them robbing the parent plant. Pot them in forty-eight-sized pots, with a little sand, and not too much water, or they will damp off. Do not stop them, if intended for exhibition, or to get large blooms. If for pot culture, to make large bushy plants, stop as soon as possible, but mind the stem is three inches clear from the mould. Border plants must remain quiet for the present, till the weather is more favourable. Then divide and plant out, as before directed, but be sparing with the water, or they will damp off.——*Pompones*, in pots, for specimens, if started in November, and have been potted off from the cutting pots, and well established in sixty-sized pots, will now require a shift into forty-eight pots, also giving their first stop, if they have attained the height of from four to six inches. Carefully take out the leader, not more than you can possibly avoid, which will give two or three more breaks than otherwise. If not yet started, no time should be lost. Take the tops off the strongest autumn suckers, and make a soft wooded cutting. Remove the lower leaves, and the eyes with them, from that part of the cutting inserted in the pot, which is a great preventive against throwing up suckers during their growth. They will strike freely on a back shelf, or in any shady corner of the greenhouse. If a slight bottom heat is applied, the process of striking is much quicker, but be careful not to draw them too much, as the *shorter the growth* at the starting, the more the breaks likely to be got from the first stop, which is a great advantage. The following compost will be found suitable for striking:—Loam, three parts; well decomposed manure, or leaf mould, one part; silver sand, one part. This compost holds good for general growth, from the cutting pot, except one-sixth part of sand, instead of one part. —JAMES HOLLAND, *gardener to R. W. Peake, Esq., Spring Grove, Hounslow.*

CINERARIAS.—These are now very gay, particularly seedlings. To prolong their beauty, a little shading, for an hour or two in

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the middle of the day, will be beneficial. See that the plants are liberally supplied with water. Specimen plants must have constant attention in tying and pegging out the flower stems. Give plenty of air, at favourable opportunities, keeping the plants close to the glass. All plants should be in the pots they are to bloom in. Fumigate often, with tobacco paper. Those who intend to sow seed, should select their plants, and put them together, by the end of the month. In selecting, choose only those having good broad petals, without serrature, decided colours, compact growth, and large head.—JOHN DOBSON, *Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth.*

CUCUMBERS.—The plants that were ridged out last month will now be beginning to show fruit in abundance. Particular care must be paid to set or impregnate the female flowers, as they appear, for, without this assistance, many will damp off, and others will grow deformed in shape. At a more advanced period of the year, this precaution is of less importance, as many insects, and bees in particular, will be in active search of food, and will, whilst flying from flower to flower, perform this necessary office. The state of the beds will require daily attention, to keep up a brisk growing heat, that the plants may not sustain any check, which, at all seasons, is very injurious. As the heat begins to decline, let linings of prepared fresh dung be applied. Air should likewise be freely admitted every day, in quantity more or less, as the state of the weather and the temperature of the beds may direct. Water should also be given, but in a moderate quantity, and always having the chill taken off before using, either by its being placed in the bed some hours before it is used, or by adding a portion of hot water to the cold; and the operation of watering should be performed from ten to twelve o'clock in the forenoon, and, if possible, on a fine day, so that the plants may be partially dried, before the bed is shut up for the night. The frames will still require to be covered up every night, with mats, and they should be uncovered soon after sunrise in the morning. As the plants extend themselves, let their shoots or runners be pegged down to the soil, at regular distances, cutting off all superfluous shoots. This will cause them to root at the joints of the shoots, by which they will obtain additional nourishment. As the roots penetrate through the soil in the bed, add more, previously having it placed in the bed for a day or two, before it is applied to the roots, that it may be brought to an equal temperature with the soil in the bed. It is better that the soil applied should be moderately dry, before it is put in the bed, for which, a quantity prepared should be kept in a shed, or other sheltered place, to be always in a fit state.—JOHN BURTON, *Oxton.*

DAHLIAS.—It is now time the roots were set to work. Those who have not the convenience of a hothouse, may make a hotbed, two feet thick, shake the whole of the manure, and having made it smooth, cover with about four inches of dry soil.

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Place the roots on the surface, not plunging them into the soil. When the shoots are about four inches long, if the root cannot be conveniently divided into as many plants as you may require, the shoots may be cut off close to the root, and placed in small pots, in light soil. These pots should then be plunged to the rim in the bed, and when you have obtained sufficient cuttings, the roots may be divided and treated in a similar manner. Keep close till they have started growth, and then give air freely. Place them as near the glass as possible, which will cause them to make nice dwarf plants. Greenfly must be seen to.—RICHARD EDWARDS, *Nuthall.*

EPACRISES.—This winter and spring tribe of flowering plants is rapidly gaining ground in the estimation of the public, so much so, that there will be a great demand for them by and by, and those who have not yet commenced forming a collection, may do worse than take the list given by me, in the February number. As they go out of flower, continue to cut the shoots back. (See last month's calendar.) Those cut back in January, should, by this time, be fit to repot. If the pots are full of healthy roots, give a liberal shift into good peat and sand, mixed with a little charcoal. Make the surface soil rather fine, or too much air may enter. See that none suffer for want of water. Syringe those repotted twice a day, and cut down plants freely.—EDWARD CLEETON, *gardener to E. Holland, Esq., M.P.. Dumbleton.*

FLOWER GARDEN.—In my humble endeavours to write a few hints for this department of the garden, I would particularly urge upon the numerous readers of the *Midland Florist*, the importance of the ground in which the plants are to grow, being well prepared, and, as far as possible, containing the kind of food best adapted to produce a display of flowers. Should there be any deficiency in drainage, the result will be rank growth, with few flowers, especially in the autumn; and if the ground is naturally too dry, and deficient in depth for the roots of the plants to penetrate it, that they may withstand drought, deep digging, or rather trenching, will be found the most beneficial. It will save the labour of the watering-pot, and produce a telling effect on the growth and flowering of the plants, "if the work be properly done." I have heard some persons condemn deep digging, but, on inquiry, found that the operation had not been well performed. As a safe guide, do not bring to the surface too much of the subsoil at one time, but loosen it at the bottom of the trench to a good depth. Autumn is the best time for the operation, but it is not yet too late, if done forthwith, and will well repay the labour, if a display of flowers is a matter of consideration. Bear in mind to frequently fork over the ground, to intermix the soil well, and expose it to the beneficial influence of the atmosphere. This is an operation of more importance than is generally considered, and to its neglect, probably, might be traced the majority of the failures in the growth of seeds, cuttings, and plants, before and after

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they are planted in the flower garden. If the soil in which they are to grow be well prepared, I should prefer small plants of many of the occupants of the flower garden, to strong ones on ground imperfectly prepared. Where good fresh loam can be had, it is unquestionably the best for most plants; but, in some places, it is a scarce article, and many are the makeshifts used in lieu of it, and with good results. Such plants as Petunias, Salvias, Ageratums, &c., and most of the Geraniums do not require a rich soil; but Golden Chain and a few others require a well-pulverized rich compost to grow them to perfection. For bedding Calceolarias, I have found nothing to equal cow-dung. I had two beds, last year, of eight sorts mixed, and about sixty plants in each bed, "and not one failure." For the last five years, I have propagated and wintered the Shrubby Calceolarias, under hand-lights, behind a north wall, giving air all through the winter, when the weather was not too frosty, but more on this subject next month. The season is now at hand for propagating most bedding plants. Pay attention first to those you are most deficient of. I would here give a word of caution. Do not think of propagating largely anything new, that you have not grown, or seen growing, so that you can judge truly of its habits, &c., and especially avoid using plants doubtful for planting in masses in a flower garden. It is better to have a piece of ground set apart from the flower garden, to prove their suitableness, and the more experiments you can make in this way the better, and favour us with the results, through the pages of the *Midland Florist*. I have no doubt but there are many plants not yet proved, that may, ere long, be found adapted for planting in various ways, for display, some requiring better cultivation than they have hitherto received, including many that are hardy, and others, as annuals, &c., that can easily be raised from seed. I fear I should be occupying too much space were I to give a list of the latter, that I have proved. All who have not yet made their selection, I would strongly recommend to peruse searchingly such catalogues as Mr. Carter's, of High Holborn, and Mr. Thompson's, of Ipswich. Now is the time to make sowings in pots, to place where most convenient, or in a frame, with a slight bottom heat. Give plenty of air, when the weather will permit, to all plants intended for the flower garden. Keep insects in check. Study and adopt plans for protection, &c., for plants to be hardened off in a few weeks. Make notes of spring-flowering plants, and adopt every available means to add to the beauty of the garden, both now and for the future.—J. KIDD, *gardener to T. Tryon, Esq., Bulwick Park, Wansford.*

FORCING DEPARTMENT.—*Peaches.*—As soon as the fruit is well set, begin to rub off the young breaks that are not wanted to furnish the tree with wood. Go over them three or four times, as nature don't like to be taken by surprise. If greenfly appear, fumigate with tobacco, but not too strong,—better repeat the



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dose. I have generally fumigated well before the buds broke, and this has carried me through the early stages of the fruit, without danger of being injured by strong hot fumes of tobacco, which is sometimes the case. Syringe well directly after fumigating, and moderately afterwards, on fine days.—— *Figs.*—When these have expanded their leaves, see that they do not suffer for want of moisture at the roots. Draw the syringe over them, on fine days. Stop the shoot at the fourth or fifth joint beyond the fruit, which will assist the swelling of the young fruit, and mature the wood for a second crop.—— *Vines.*—As soon as these have made sufficient growth, stop at the first joint beyond the bunch. I would not thin too severely at first,—better do it gradually, as so sudden a proceeding would interfere with the reciprocal action between root and branch. As soon as Grapes in pots have set their fruit, choose from four to six of the strongest shoots, according to the strength of the plant, and remove all the others. Thin the berries early, taking special care not to touch them with the hand. Look well to coverings on outside borders, and moisten the stems with tepid water, on fine days. Be careful never to use water cooler than the temperature of the house, either for syringing or the roots. Keep the temperature about sixty degrees, but do not be alarmed if it should fall to fifty-five, on sharp nights. No harm will ensue, for all natural temperatures vary, and why should not artificial ones?—M. BUSBY, F.H.S.

FRUIT GARDEN.—Bring up all arrears in pruning, nailing, tying, and digging. Nail Peaches, Nectarines, Vines, and Figs, but, in pruning the latter, do not cut off the end of the shoots, if you can avoid it. When Apricots are in bloom, guard against frost, but do not keep the trees covered by day. Stir the soil amongst Strawberries, but not deeply. Grafting may now be done with safety.—WILLIAM SHIPLEY, *Heywood Gardens, Westbury, Wilts.*

FUCHSIAS.—These will be growing very fast. Repot those that require it. Plants for the early exhibitions, should be in thirty-two-sized pots. Maintain a moist atmosphere. Syringe once or twice a day. Water with liquid manure. Early blooms should be pinched off. Never let the plants get dry. See that no shoots are broken for want of a stick. Continue to put in cuttings as required.—JOHN DOBSON, *Woodlands Nurseries, Isleworth.*

HOLLYHOCKS.—Remove plants from their winter quarters, throw the lights off frames, if not snowy or wet, or place your plants in pots, under a south or west wall, slightly protecting from sharp frosts. Old roots, if not removed last month, had better at once be divided and planted afresh. The weather being favourable, plants in pots may also be put out for early flowering. It is desirable to get all out, even this month, that have been wintered in pots. Cuttings will root and grow freely.

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As soon as rooted, take them off heat, and keep growing on an old Cucumber bed, under glass, till they get thoroughly well established, avoid keeping too warm and close.—WILLIAM CHATER, *Nurseries, Saffron Walden.*

HEATHERY.—Complete the shifting of specimens. In shifting, do not elevate the collar of the plant above the rim of the pot. I have seen more Heaths die from that unnatural system than from all other causes put together. Keep the repotted plants rather close, till they strike root in the fresh soil. Give air freely to the other inmates, as directed last month.—E. CLEETON, *gardener to E. Holland, Esq., M.P., Dumbleton.*

KITCHEN AND COTTAGE GARDEN.—Sow Peas. The better sorts of marrows will now do well. Plant Broad Beans. Sow Cabbage, for summer cutting, and Celery, on a slight hotbed. Sow Cauliflowers, Early Horn Carrots, Onions, Leeks, Mustard and Cress, Radishes, Lettuce, Parsley, and Spinach. Plant Potatoes, Rhubarb, and Seakale. Make and plant Asparagus beds. Plant Jerusalem Artichokes, and Horseradish. Put out Cauliflower plants that have been preserved in frames or under hand-glasses. Put out Lettuce plants. Plant pot herbs, such as Thyme, Marjoram, &c. Sow Tomatoes, to get strong. Plant out Peas that have been raised in pots or boxes. Stir the soil amongst growing crops.—WILLIAM SHIPLEY, *Westbury, Wilts.*

PANSIES.—The weather can be no excuse, if the operations advised last month have not been carried out. We may fairly expect that most of the plants are in their blooming pots, and just recovering from the shift. They will begin to make rapid growth, and must receive abundance of air, to cause that growth to be strong, which will ensure fine blooms. Side shoots must be removed, and may be put into pots, to strike. Occasionally water with weak liquid manure. Remove all flower buds as they appear. Top-dress those in beds with about an inch of light soil. See that all shoots are securely pegged down. Plant out seedlings.—JOHN DOBSON, *Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth.*

PELARGONIUMS.—Those who are desirous of having the Geranium house gay till the end of July, cannot do better than stop the plants back, the first or second week in the month, keeping the house close for a few days, to induce the eyes to break strong. As soon as the eyes are started, shift them into their blooming pots, if not already done. When they have recovered, air must be given every favourable opportunity, opening early and closing according to circumstances. The May plants are fast throwing up their trusses, and must be rather liberally supplied with water, giving liquid manure twice a week. About twice a week, on sunny afternoons, after shutting up the house, about four o'clock, I draw the syringe over the plants. June plants will be growing rapidly, and may be

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treated like the May plants, going over them often, to arrange the shoots, with the view of encouraging a short strong habit of growth. Avoid cold easterly winds, which are very prevalent in March. Remove all yellow leaves, which increase as the plants throw up their flowers. Give the plants all the room that can be spared. The following sorts will be found to succeed well for July:—Wonderful, Symmetry, Era, Leonora, Meteora, Mr. White, Miss Foster, Matilda, Phaeton, Standard, Laura, Miranda, Siren, Signora, Vestal, Etna, Richard Denyon, Rosy Gem, and Fairest of the Fair.—JOHN DOBSON, *Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth.*

POLYANTHUSES, about the 12th, should be removed to a rather shady eastern aspect, be pretty well supplied with water, and covered up at night, uncovering early in the morning, to give the full benefit of the morning air.—JOHN HEPWORTH, *Lea Bridge-road, Leyton.*

ROSES.—Intending purchasers should at once procure what they require to make good any losses, and they cannot do better than consult the list, by Mr. T. Appleby, in the February number. He has, however, omitted one or two I consider first-rate, as continuous bloomers, as well as good show flowers. Among the Bourbons, Sir Joseph Paxton and Madame Desprez are very free bloomers, while Paul's Prince Albert is the finest and brightest in colour of the whole family. I should also add one or two from the Noisettes, as Aimee Vibert, Lamarque, and Solfaterre. The two last are splendid in bud. Planting should be completed early, and should the weather be dry, watering and mulching, if not unsightly, will be found beneficial. Prune some of the Hybrid Perpetuals early, for early bloom; a few more at the end of the month, and the Teas, Chinas, and weak growers even in April.——*In Pots.*—This is a good time to pot for next year's forcing. I use two parts good loam and one part well rotted dung. After potting, place your plants in a cold frame, till they have made roots into the fresh soil, when they may go into summer quarters. Treat them liberally with liquid manure, and keep them clean. Young stock will require attention as to shifting, &c. Give air at all favourable opportunities to those forcing. Fumigate, to keep down greenfly, &c.—HENRY DAVIES, *Great Stanmore.*

TULIPS.—The past winter being dry and without severe frost, it has been peculiarly favourable for Tulips, and a fine bloom may be confidently looked forward to. The most critical time is approaching. When the foliage is sufficiently expanded to hold water, should it get frozen therein, many blooms would be injured and destroyed. Therefore, put on the covering, to keep off all downfall; and cover close, when sharp frost is anticipated, after a stormy day. The soil should now be stirred about half-an-inch deep, with a blunt stick.—T. ALLESTREE, *Draycott, near Derby.*

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# Floral Exhibitions.

## ROYAL VICTORIA TULIP SHOW.

**Held at Mr. R. Johnson's, White Swan Inn, Macclesfield, June 5, 1857.**

Premier Prize (Silver Cup).—1. Surpass Catafalque, Polyphemus, R. Nunnerley. 2. Charles, X., Polyphemus, E. Warhurst.

*Feathered Bizarres.*

1 Charles, X., Boote
2 Surpass Catafalque, J. Goodwin
3 Lord Lilford, Kelsall
4 Charles, X., Boote
5 Magnum Bonum, Kelsall
6 Competitor, E. Pimblott
7 Spencer's Duke, G. Bayley
8 Unknown, E. Warhurst
9 Royal Gem, R. Nunnerley
10 Competitor, Kelsall

*Flamed Bizarres.*

1 Polyphemus, C. Pimblott
2 Lustre, J. Goodwin
3 Polyphemus, Kelsall
4 San Joe, J. Goodwin
5 Albion, C. Pimblott
6 Charles, X., ditto
7 Pilot, R. Nunnerley
8 Surpass Catafalque, G. Bayley
9 Marshal Soult, R. Nunnerly
10 Vivid, Kelsall

*Feathered Byblæmens.*

1 Edgar, J. Bennett
2 Edgar, J. Goodwin
3 Bienfait, ditto
4 Unknown, Boote
5 Bacchus, J. Goodwin
6 La Belle Narene, E. Warhurst
7 Maid of Athens, Stanley
8 Ambassador, J. Bennett
9 Lady Flora Hastings, E. Pimblott
10 Countess of Flanders, Kelsall

*Flamed Byblæmens.*

1 Violet Wallers, J. Goodwin
2 Violet Wallers, R. Nunnerley
3 Charlotte, Kelsall
4 Maid of Athens, J. Goodwin
5 Maitre Partout, C. Pimblott
6 Baguet, T. Lovatt
7 Seedling, ditto
8 Superba, R. Nunnerley
9 Purple Perfection, Boote
10 La Belle Narene, G. Bayley

*Feathered Roses.*

1 Comte de Vergennes, J. Bennett
2 Heroine, Kelsall
3 Lady Crewe, W. Stanley
4 Aglaia, G. Bayley
5 Comte de Vergennes, T. Lovatt
6 Duchess of Sutherland, Boote
7 Prince d' Austria, J. Bennett
8 Hero of the Nile, G. Bayley
9 Newcastle, E. Warhurst
10 Walworth, J. Bennett

*Flamed Roses.*

1 Aglaia, T. Lovatt
2 Vesta, G. Bayley
3 Aglaia, T. Lovatt
4 Unique, G. Bayley
5 Vainqueur, Kelsall
6 Thalestris, E. Warhurst
7 La Vandicken, Boote
8 Camillus, J. Goodwin
9 Triomphe Royale, ditto
10 Rosy Gem, Boote

*Breeders.*

Sir J. Paxton (biz.) Boote
Maid of Orleans (byb.), R. Nunnerley
Lady Lilford (rose), E. Warhurst

*Sets.*

White Prefection, W. Stanley
Mm d'Or, G. Bayley

## BUTLEY TULIP SHOW.

**At Mr. W. Kitchen's, the Orange Tree Inn, Butley, near Macclesfield, June 4.**

Premier Prize (Silver Cup).—1. R. Nunnerley, Charles X., Violet Amiable, Lady Crewe, San Joe, Flora, Aglaia. 2. D. Potts, Lord Lilford, Bienfait, Heroine, Polyphemus, Lord Denman, Aglaia.

Best Pan of Breeders.—D. Potts, Willison's King (biz.), unknown (byb.), Lord Derby (rose).

Best Pair of Beaten Flowers.—1. E. Warhurst, Charles X. and Polyphemus. 2. G. Chadwick, Charles X. and Polyphemus.

*Feathered Bizarres.*

1 Charles X., G. Chadwick
2 Lord Lilford, D. Potts
3 Charles X., G. Chadwick
4 Sir Sidney Smith, R. Nunnerley
5 Surpass Catafalque, M. L. Burgess
6 Duke of Devonshire, G. Chadwick
7 Waterloo, D. Potts
8 Dreadnought, ditto
9 Perfecta, M. L. Burgess
10 Trafalgar, G. Chadwick

*Flamed Bizarres.*

1 Polyphemus, E. Warhurst
2 Polyphemus, D. Potts



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3 Dutch Catafalque, G. Chadwick
4 San Joe, R. Nunnerley
5 Paul Pry, D. Potts
6 Charles X., M. Grimsditch
7 Pilot, D. Potts
8 Lustre, E. Warhurst
9 Surpass Catafalque, D. Potts
10 Duke of Devonshire, G. Chadwick

*Feathered Byblœmens.*

1 Edgar, G. Chadwick
2 Bienfait, ditto
3 Edgar, R. Nunnerley
4 Lord Denman, D. Potts
5 Prince Albert, W. Kitchen
6 Maitre Partout, D. Potts
7 Black Baguet, J. Hart
8 La Belle Narene, G. Chadwick
9 Hugobert, ditto
10 Maid of Athens, R. Nunnerley

*Flamed Byblœmens.*

1 Lord Denman, R Nunnerley
2 Buckley's Beauty, D. Potts
3 Bienfait, ditto
4 Lord Denman, ditto
5 Voerhelm, G. Chadwick
6 Violet Imperial, M. L. Burgess
7 La Belle Narene, M. Grimsditch
8 Violet Wallers, R. Nunnerley
9 Lady Flora, G. Chadwick
10 Lord Vernon, D. Potts

*Feathered Roses.*

1 Heroine, D. Potts
2 Heroine, G. Chadwick
3 Comte de Vergennes, ditto
4 Aglaia, R. Nunnerley
5 Lady Crewe, G. Chadwick
6 Andromeda, D. Potts
7 Hero of the Nile, G. Chadwick
8 Newcastle, D. Potts
9 Duchess of Sutherland, ditto
10 Village Maid, E. Warhurst

*Flamed Roses.*

1 Unique, D. Potts
2 Aglaia, ditto
3 Triomphe Royale, ditto
4 Vesta, R. Nunnerley
5 Unique, D. Potts
6 La Vandicken, ditto
7 Thalestris, G. Chadwick
8 Andromeda, D. Potts
9 Ponceau Brillant, ditto
10 Unknown, E. Warhurst

*Bizarre Breeders.*

1 Polyphemus, G. Chadwick
2 Willison's King, D. Potts
3 Duke of Hamilton, P. Nunnerley
4 Elizabeth, D. Potts
5 Pilot, ditto
6 Earl Radnor, R Nunnerley

*Byblœmen Breeders.*

1 Princess Royal, J. Hart
2 Van Amburg, R. Nunnerley
3 Miss Forrest, ditto
4 Chellaston Breeder, W. Kitchen
5 Maid of Athens, J. Hart
6 Unknown, D. Potts

*Rose Breeders*

1 Lord Derby, D. Potts
2 Village Maid, R. Nunnerley
3 Anastasia, ditto
4 Catherine, J. Hart
5 Seedling, D. Potts
6 Portia, ditto

*Selfs.*

White Flag, G. Chadwick
Yellow Model, D. Potts

## BOLLINGTON TULIP SHOW.

**At Mr. J. Beard's, the Hollybush Inn, Bollington, near Macclesfield, June.**

Premier Prize.—Comte de Vergennes and Unique, D. Potts.
Best Pan of Breeders.—Polyphemus (biz.), Contender (byb), Anastasia (rose), P. Hibbert.

*Feathered Bizarres.*

1 Magnum Bonum, D. Potts
2 Ditto, ditto
3 Lord Lilford, ditto
4 Apelles, ditto
5 Charles X., J. Hooley
6 Trafalgar, D. Potts
7 Sisygambis, P. Hibbert
8 Duke of Devonshire, ditto

*Flamed Bizarres.*

1 Surpass Catafalque, D. Potts
2 Polyphemus, ditto
3 Lustre, J. Hooley
4 Earl of Nottingham, D. Potts
5 Pilot, ditto
6 Albion, P. Hibbert
7 Paul Pry, ditto
8 Rufus, T. Oldfield

*Feathered Byblœmens.*

1 La Belle Narene, J. Hooley
2 Ditto, ditto
3 Bienfait, D. Potts
4 Vesta, P. Hibbert
5 Lord Denman, D. Potts
6 Ratcliff's Seedling, J. Hooley
7 Maitre Partout, D Potts
8 Maid of Orleans, ditto

*Flamed Byblœmens.*

1 La Belle Narene, J. Hooley
2 Bienfait, D. Potts
3 La Belle Narene, J. Hooley
4 Violet Wallers, D. Potts
5 Lord Vernon, ditto
6 Bœmart, ditto
7 Surpassant, ditto
8 Flora, J. Hooley

*Feathered Roses.*

1 Comte de Vergennes, D. Potts
2 Heroine, J. Hooley
3 Comte de Vergennes, D. Potts
4 Lady Crewe, P. Hibbert
5 Kate Connor, D. Potts

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6 Andromeda, P. Hibbert
7 Prince d'Austria, J. Hooley
8 Aglaia, P. Hibbert

*Flamed Roses.*

1 Unique, J. Hooley
2 Unique, P. Hibbert
3 Triomphe Royale, D. Potts
4 Aglaia, T. Oldfield
5 Vesta, P. Hibbert
6 Thalestris, ditto
7 Andromeda, D. Potts
8 Lord Hill, ditto

*Bizarre Breeders.*

1 Polyphomus, P. Hibbert
2 Unknown, T. Oldfield
3 Old Dutch Catafalque, J. Hooley

*Byblœmen Breeders.*

1 Contender, P. Hibbert
2 Maid of Orleans, ditto
3 Seedling, T. Oldfield

*Rose Breeders.*

1 Unknown, T. Oldfield
2 Lord Derby, D. Potts
3 Unknown, J. Beard

*Selfs.*

White Perfection, P. Hibbert
Min d'Or, ditto

## TULIP SHOW.

**At Mr. Kay's, Horse-load Inn, Blackburn, June 6th, 1857.**

Judges.—Messrs. Gibson and Foulds.
Maiden Prizes.—1. Violet Amiable, Mr. Aspden. 2. Bienfait, Mr. Kay.

*Feathered Bizarres.*

1 Lord Lilford, R. Haworth
2 Charles X., ditto
3 Catafalque, W. Haworth
4 Magnum Bonum, Aspden
5 Waterloo, Broughton
6 Greenman, ditto
7 Rufus, Houlker

*Flamed Bizarres.*

1 Polyphemus, Pemberton
2 Charbonnier, Houlker
3 Abercromby W. Hawarth
4 Pilot, Houlker
5 Catafalque, Broughton
6 Lord Lilford, R. Haworth
7 Charles X., Fairbrother

*Feathered Byblœmens.*

1 Violet Amiable, Wilkinson
2 Unknown, R. Haworth
3 Bienfait, Kay
4 General Barneveldt, R. Haworth
5 Unknown, Wilkinson
6 Duc de Bordeaux, Pemberton
7 Incomparable, ditto

*Flamed Byblœmens.*

1 Prince Elie, Pemberton
2 General Barneveldt, Houlker
3 Martin's Seedling, Fairbrother
4 Queen of the North, Houlker
5 Maid of Orleans, ditto
6 Unknown, Fairbrother
7 Washington, R. Haworth

*Feathered Roses.*

1 Lady Crewe, R. Haworth
2 Triomphe, Fairbrother
3 Count, Kay
4 Hero of the Nile, R. Haworth
5 Arlette, Wilkinson
6 Andromeda, Broughton
7 Claudiana, Hadfield

*Flamed Roses.*

1 Cerise Belle Forme, Hadfield
2 Vandicken, Broughton
3 Kate Connor, Houlker
4 Alexander du Roi, Fairbrother
5 Aglaia, ditto
6 Duchess of Sutherland, R. Haworth
7 Rose Quarto, W. Haworth

*Bizarre Breeders.*

1 Polyphemus, Broughton
2 Captain Nolan, R. Haworth
3 Unknown, W. Wilkinson
4 Arjosto, Fairbrother

*Byblœmen Breeders.*

1 Earl of Warwick, R. Harworth
2 Seedling, Fairbrother
3 School Boy, ditto
4 Maid of Orleans, Broughton

*Rose Breeders.*

1 Kate Connor, Hadfield
2 Juliet, Fairbrother
3 Unknown, ditto
4 Martin's Seedling, R. Haworth

*Selfs.*

Min d'Or, Pemberton
Perfection, R. Haworth

## ROYTON TULIP SHOW.

**Held at the Unicorn and Park, Inn, June 6th, 1857.**

Judges.—Mr. B. Hague, Mr. R. Taylor, and Mr. J. Jaques.

A silver cup, value £3 10s., was awarded to Mr. Samuel Barlow, for the best stand of two rectified flowers, viz., San Joe, and Magnum Bonum.

Maiden Prize.—Aglaia, and Surpass Catafalque, T. Stephenson.

Premier Prizes.—1. S. Barlow, San Joe and Magnum Bonum. 2. H. Travis, Violet Wallers and Heroine. 3. R. Burghall, Charles X. flamed and Charles X. feathered. 4. J. Ogden, Unique and Heroine. 5. T. Stephenson, Aglaia and Surpass Catafalque. 6. J. Wood, Duke of Lancaster and Magnum Bonum.

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*Feathered Bizarres.*
1 Charles X., R. Burghall
2 Lord Lilford, J. Ogden
3 Sidney, S. Fox
4 Duc de Savoy, J. Heap
5 Surpass Catafalque, W. Bentley
6 Rising Sun, J. Ogden
7 Royal Gem, S. Fox
8 Waterloo, R. Burghall

*Flamed Bizarres.*
1 Charles X., H. Travis
2 San Joe, W. Bentley
3 Lustre, J. Ashton
4 Polyphemus, B. Hilton
5 Albion, ditto
6 Catafalque, ditto
7 Pilot, W. Bentley
8 Duke of Devonshire, J. Ogden

*Feathered Byblœmens.*
1 Sable Monarch, B. Hilton
2 Bienfait, H. Travis
3 Maid of Orleans, W. Bentley
4 Violet Amiable, ditto
5 Maid of Athens, ditto
6 Louis XVI., J. Wood
7 La Belle Narene, R Burghall
8 Ne plus ultra, W. Bentley

*Flamed Byblœmens.*
1 Violet Wailers, W. Bentley
2 Bienfait, B. Hilton
3 Lord Denman, W. Bentley
4 Queen Charlotte, H. Travis
5 Roi de Siam, L. Ashmole
6 Bacchus, J. Heap
7 Baguet, ditto
8 Guillotine, B. Hilton

*Feathered Roses.*
1 Count, R. Burghall
2 Heroine, W. Bentley
3 Lady Crewe, L. Fox
4 Anastasia, S. Barlow
5 Andromeda, J. Wood
6 Hurst Rose, J. Ogden
7 Bion, W. Bentley
8 Walworth, S. Barlow

*Flamed Roses.*
1 Unique, J. Ogden
2 Aglaia, B. Hilton
3 Vesta, W. Butterworth
4 La Vandicken, H. Travis
5 Triomphe Royale, W. Butterworth
6 Anastasia, R. Burghall
7 Celestial, S. Barlow
8 Rose Empress, L. Burghall

*Bizarre Breeders.*
1 Pompe Funebre, J. Wood
2 Admiral Napier, L. Ashmole
3 Duke of Hamiltom, B. Hilton
4 Captain Butler, L. Ashmole

*Byblœmen Breeders.*
1 Princess Royal, L. Ashmole
2 Surpass le Grande, J. Wood
3 Seedling, J Ashton
4 Oliver Goldsmith, J. Ogden

*Rose Breeders.*
1 Anastasia, J. Ashton
2 Village Maid, J. Wood
3 Catherine, J. Ogden
4 Lady Catherine Gordon, R. Burghall

*Selfs.*
White Perfection, J. Ashton
Min d'Or, J. Wood

## TULIP SHOW.

### At the Red Gate Inn, near Longton.

Pans.—1. T. Cooper, Catafalque, San Joe, Baguet, Denman, Heroine, Aglaia, 2. A. Holinshead, Charles X., Polyphemus, Albert, Denman, Amelia, Triomphe Royale. 3. A. Shaw, Charles X., Polyphemus, Gibbons, J. Whittaker, Heroine, Aglaia. 4. J. Johnson, Charles X., Polyphemus, Maid, Lucy Neal, Amelia, Aglaia. 5. W. Emony, Magnum, San Joe, Maid, Princess Royal, Comte, Aglaia. 6. D. Brown, Charles X., Charles X., Friend, Venus, Heroine, Triomphe Royale. 7. E. Eardley, Lord Lilford, San Joe, David, Princess Royal, Unknown, Aglaia. 8. S. Mountford, Charles X., Polyphemus, Maid, Princess Royal, Heroine, Triomphe Royale.

*Feathered Bizarres.*
1 Charles X., A. Hollinshead
2 Charles X., T. Cooper
3 Magnum Bonum, ditto
4 Lord Lilford, A. Hollinshead
5 Polyphemus, S. Mountford
6 Hamilton, A. Shaw
7 Devonshire, ditto

*Flamed Bizarres.*
1 San Joe, A. Shaw
2 Catafalque, ditto
3 Rising Sun, A. Hollinshead
4 Nelson, ditto
5 Vivid, A. Shaw
6 Gold Cup, J. Johnson
7 Negress, A. Hollinshead

*Feathered Byblœmens.*
1 Violet Amiable, J. Johnson
2 Barneveldt, A. Shaw
3 Maid, J. Johnson
4 Flanders, A. Shaw
5 Albert, A. Hollinshead
6 Grotius, A. Shaw
7 Violet Amiable, A. Holinshead

*Flamed Byblœmens.*
1 Professor, A. Hollinshead
2 Elie, J. Johnson
3 Pandora, A. Shaw
4 Lucy Neal, J. Johnson
5 Lord Brougham, A. Hollinshead
6 Charlotte, ditto
7 Queen of the North, A. Shaw

*Feathered Roses.*
1 Amelia, A. Hollinshead
2 Heroine, A. Shaw
3 Andromeda, T. Cooper

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4 Comte, W. Emony
5 Aglaia, ditto
6 Bijou, A. Shaw
7 Bagnet, J. Johnson

*Flamed Roses.*

1 Aglaia, E. Eardley
2 Claudiana, A. Hollinshead
3 Lady Jane Grey, ditto
4 Aglaia, E. Eardley
5 Heroine Dutch, A. Shaw
6 Triomphe Royale, A. Hollinshead
7 Matilda, A. Shaw

*Bizarre Breeders.*

1 Seedling, D. Brown
2 Unknown, E Eardley
3 Seedling, W. Emony

*Byblœmen Breeders.*

1 Gibbons, A. Shaw
2 Maid, W. Emony
3 Groom's Seedling, D. Brown

*Rose Breeders.*

1 Lady Cath. Gordon, A. Hollinshead
2 Seedling, D. Brown
3 Seedling, E. Eardley

Next season, the show will be open to Lancashire, Cheshire, and Staffordshire.

## MOTTRAM TULIP SHOW.

At Mr. Thomas Chadwick's, Admiral Tollemache, June 6th, 1857.

Best feathered, Charles X., J. Barratt | Best flamed, Rose Unique, J. Shawcross.

*Feathered Bizarres.*

1 Charles X, J. Barratt
2 Magnum Bonum, J. Oldham
3 Trafalgar, J. Rowbottom
4 Crown Prince, E. Jackson
5 Royal Gem, J Barratt
6 Unknown, W. Wood

*Flamed Bizarres.*

1 Charles X, Joseph Oldham
2 Crown Prince, James Oldham
3 Rising Sun, J. Shawcross
4 Polyphemus, J. Barratt
5 Lacantique, J. Shawcross
6 Lustre, ditto

*Feathered Byblœmens.*

1 Violet Winner, James Oldham
2 Gibbons's Elegance, E. Jackson
3 La Belle Narene, Joseph Oldham
4 Orleans, A. Garside
5 Buckley's Beauty, Joseph Oldham
6 Clotilde, ditto

*Flamed Byblœmens.*

1 Incomparable, Joseph Oldham
2 Bienfait, E. Jackson
3 Violet Wallers, ditto
4 Maid of Orleans, ditto
5 Le Belle Narene, ditto
6 Violet a Fond Noir, J. Shawcross

*Feathered Roses.*

1 Heroine, J. Barratt
2 Lady Crewe, G. Watts
3 Lady Grey, Joseph Oldham
4 Dolittle, J. Shawcross
5 Duc de Bronte, ditto
6 Newcastle, Joseph Oldham

*Flamed Roses.*

1 Rose Unique, J. Shawcross
2 Triomphe Royale, J. Barratt
3 Rose Vesta, J. Shawcross
4 Lord Hill, E. Jackson
5 Heroine, J Barratt
6 Vainqueur, ditto

*Bizarre Breeders.*

1 Cyclops, J. Shawcross
2 Catafalque, E Jackson
3 Unknown, Joseph Oldham

*Byblœmen Breeders.*

1 Maid of Orleans, J. Barratt
2 Unknown, Joseph Oldham
3 Maid of Athens, J. Barratt

*Rose Breeders.*

1 Lady Stanley, J. Barratt
2 Newcastle, Joseph Oldham
3 Unknown, E. Jackson

*Selfs.*

Min d'Or, Joseph Oldham
White Perfection, J. Barratt

## TULIP SHOW.

At Mr. Thomas Moss's, Grapes Inn, Ashton-under-Lyne, June 6th 1857.

Judges.—Messrs. William Alsop, William Hall, and Robert Alsop.
Maiden Prizes.—1. Charles X., J. Lee. 2. Polyphemus, J. Kenworthy. 3. Charles X., W. Greenwood.
Silver Cup.—Lady Crewe and Violet Wallers, R. Mills.

*Feathered Bizarres.*

1 Charles X, J. Wild
2 Lord Lilford, S. Stopford
3 Magnum Bonum, J. Lunn
4 Seedling, J. Warren
5 Surpass Catafalque, S. Stopford
6 Royal Gem, J. Haigh
7 Sir G. Brown, S. Stopford
8 Old Dutch Catafalque, T. Mellor

*Flamed Bizarres.*

1 Abercromby, J Lunn
2 Polyphemus, J. Kenworthy
3 Lustre, J. Dicken
4 Charles X., J. Lunn
5 Albion, J. Haigh
6 Liberty, J. Lee
7 Surpass Catafalque, J Hilton
8 Black Prince, R. Taylor

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*Feathered Byblœmens.*
1 Bienfait, J. Dicken
2 Maid of Orleans, J. Buckley
3 Sable Monarch, J. Lunn
4 Comte de Flanders, J. Warren
5 Abbot's Gem, J. Lee
6 King of England, J. Hilton
7 Violet Amiable, J. Haigh
8 Washington, W. Wooller

*Flamed Byblœmens.*
1 Van Amburg, T. Mellor
2 Violet Wallers, J. Dicken
3 Democrat, J. Hollingworth
4 H and B, William Greenwood
5 Flora, J. Hilton
6 Gibbons, J. Dicken
7 Bacchus, T. Mellor
8 Beauty, J. Moss

*Feathered Roses.*
1 Heroine, J. Ashton
2 Lady Crewe, T. Moss
3 Glory of Walworth, J. Lee
4 Lady Grey, J. Kenworthy
5 Andromeda, J. Hilton
6 Newcastle, J. Hollingworth
7 Aglaia, J. Haigh
8 Seedling, J Moss

*Flamed Roses.*
1 Aglaia, J. Dicken
2 Rose Unique, J. Haigh
3 Rose Guerrier, J. Lee
4 Rose Vesta, J. Lunn
5 La Vandicken, J. Wild
6 Lady C. Gordon, J. Wood
7 Triomphe Royale, J. Lunn
8 Vainqueur, T. Mellor

*Bizarre Breeders.*
1 Seedling, J. Warren
2 Pilot, S. Stopford
3 Lord Darnley, J. Hilton
4 Duke of Hamilton, T. Mellor
5 Seedling, J. Ashton
6 Ditto, ditto

*Byblœmen Breeders.*
1 Maid of Orleans, R. Mills
2 Unknown, J. Haigh
3 Seedling, J. Ashton
4 Van Amburg, J. Warren
5 Midland Beauty, J. Lunn
6 Seedling, J. Ashton

*Rose Breeders.*
1 Anastasia, J. Lunn
2 Lady Stanley, J. Wild
3 Lady Catherine Gordon, J. Haigh
4 Coulsa, J. Warren
5 Alice, J. Wood
6 Lady Grey, J. Moss

*Self.*
Min d'Or, J. Ashton

## GORTON TULIP SHOW.

**Held at the house of Mr. Alfred Knight, Chapel House Inn.**

Premier Prizes.—1. Charles, X. and Aglaia, W. Whittaker. 2. Edgar and Triomphe Royal, A. Tomlinson. 3. Baguet and Alexander Magnus, Grimshaw. 4. Magnum Bonum and Lustre, J. Knott. 5. Lord Lilford and Aglaia, E. Cash. 6. Bienfait and First-rate, J. Walker.

*Feathered Bizarres.*
1 Lilford, Whittaker
2 Catafalque, ditto
3 Charles, X., ditto
4 Surpass Catafalque, Tomlinson
5 Firebrand, Whittaker
6 Magnum Bonum, Tomlinson
7 Grand Duke, Walker

*Flamed Bizarres.*
1 Charles, X., Tomlinson
2 Napoleon, Whittaker
3 Polyphemus, ditto
4 Lustre, Tomlinson
5 Duke of Sutherland, Whittaker
6 Albion, ditto
7 San Joe, ditto

*Feathered Byblœmens.*
1 Beinfait, Whittaker
2 Queen of Violets, Tomlinson
3 Baguet, Walker
4 Colin Campbell, Whittaker
5 No. 46, Tomlinson
6 Miss Nightingale, Whittaker
7 Maid of Orleans, ditto

*Flamed Byblœmens.*
1 Violet Wallers, Tomlinson
2 Magnus, Whittaker
3 Grace Darling, ditto
4 Lord Denman, Whittaker
5 La Belle Narene, Tomlinson
6 First-rate, Walker
7 Princes Royal, Whittaker

*Feathered Roses.*
1 Heroine, Whittaker
2 Newcastle, ditto
3 Seedling (Madame Laffay), ditto
4 Lady Crewe, ditto
5 Bion, Tomlinson
6 Arlette, ditto
7 Andromeda, Cash

*Flamed Roses.*
1 Flora M'Donald, Whittaker
2 Triomphe Royale, Tomlinson
3 Aglaia, Whittaker
4 Lord Hill, Scrimshaw
5 Guerrier, Walker
6 Unique, Cash
7 Lady Crewe, Walker

*Breeders.*
Duke of Hamilton (biz.), Whittaker
Morris's Dictatior (byb.), Tomlinson
Seedling (Madame Laffay) (rose), Whittaker

*Selfs.*
Min d'Or, Whittaker

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## PINK SHOW.

**At Mrs. E. Swinnerton's, Vine Inn, Stoke-upon-Trent, June 27.**

Pans.—1. Barker's John O'Gaunt, Joseph Sturge, and Beauty of Home, R. Moorley. 2. Huntsman, Kay's Mary, and Joseph Sturge, W. Griffiths. 3. Mango, Susanna, and Beauty of Home, D. Bloor.

*Purple-laced.*

Premier.—Barker's John O'Gaunt, D. Bloor
1 Huntsman, W. Griffiths
2 Mango, ditto
3 Sambo, R. Moorley
4 Professor, D. Bloor
5 Coronation, ditto

*Red laced.*

Premier.—J. Sturge, W. Griffiths
1 Susanna, R. Moorley
2 Sir William, W. Griffiths
3 Mary Ellen, R. Moorley
4 Lady Antrobus, D. Bloor
5 Professor. ditto

*Black and White.*

Premier—Kay's Mary, W Griffiths
1 Beauty of Home, R. Moorley
2 Blackeyed Susan, D. Bloor
3 Beauty of Clayton, W. Griffiths
4 Lillia, ditto
5 Lady Boldhaughton, R. Moorley

## PINK SHOW.

**At Mr. John Harrison's, Mason's Arms, Middleton, July 6.**

Judges.—J. Clegg, R. Barnes, and E. Grindrid.

Pans.—1. M. Partington, Mango, Royal Visit, and Mistress Sarah. 2. T. Lancashire, Huntsman, Sturge, and Miss Jessop. 3. S. Bestwick, Huntsman, Royal Visit, and Beauty of Home. 4. J. Lancashire, Victory, Sturge, Miss Jessop. 5. H. Howarth, Mango, Royal Visit, and Mistress Sarah. 6. J. Beswick, Huntsman, Sturge, and Mary.

*Purple-laced.*

1 Victory, T. Lancashire
2 Mango, J. Lancashire
3 Huntsman, J. Beswick
4 Duke of St. Albans, M. Partington
5 Seedling, J. Beswick
6 Black Boy, ditto
7 Beauty of Rochdale, ditto
8 Joe Miller, J. Simmenite
9 Coronation, T. Mellor
10 John O'Gaunt, T. Lancashire

*Red-laced.*

1 Sturge, J. Lancashire
2 Dan O'Rourke, J. Beswick
3 Anna Maria, ditto
4 Susanna, J. Burgess
5 Royal Visit, ditto
6 Miss Fanny, J. Simmenite
7 Lord Raglan, John Beswick
8 Cobden, J. Burgess
9 Sir William, ditto
10 Mary Ellen, D Frith

*Black and White.*

1 Mistress Sarah, T. Lancashire
2 Blackeyed Susan. J. Lancashire
3 Lady Frost, J. Beswick
4 Miss Jessop, J. Lancashire
5 Beauty of Home, S. Beswick
6 Snowball, H. Howarth
7 Mary, J. Lancashire
8 Lady Boldhaughton, H Howarth
9 Beauty of Blackburn, T. Lancashire
10 Virgin Queen, D. Frith

## PINK SHOW.

**At Mr. Edward Barker's, Eagle and Child, Newcastle-under-Lyme, July 11.**

Judge.—Mr. D. Brown, Newcastle.

Premier Prize, given by Mr. E. Barker, for the best bloom of Barker's John O'Gaunt, sold out in 1856, H. Eaton.

*Purple-laced.*

Premier.—Huntsman, W. Griffiths
1 Mango, W. Griffiths
2 Barker's John O' Gaunt, D. Bloor
3 Huntsman, T. Bailey
4 Auckland's Mary, D. Bloor
5 Blackeyed Susan, ditto
6 Duke of St. Albans, R. Moorley
7 Beauty of Rochdale, W. Griffiths
8 Greensides, D. Bloor

*Red-laced.*

Premier.—J. Sturge, T. Bailey
1 J. Stuige, W. Griffiths
2 Dan O'Rourke, ditto
3 Susanna, T. Bailey
4 Richard Cobden, D. Bloor
5 Coronation, ditto
6 Lady Antrobus, T. Bailey
7 Mary Ellen, R. Moorley
8 Dr. Hepworth, T. Bailey

*Black and White.*

Premier.—Blackeyed Susan, D. Bloor
1 Blackeyed Susan, W Griffiths
2 Barker's John O'Gaunt, E. Barker
3 Kay's Mary, W. Griffiths
4 Virgin Queen, ditto
5 Beauty of Blackburn, R. Moorley
6 Beauty of Home, D. Bloor
7 Beauty of Clayton, W. Griffiths
8 Lillia, T. Bayley

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## PINK SHOW.

**At Mr. Harris's, Rainbow Inn, Newcastle-under-Lyme, July 19.**

*Purple-laced.*

Premier.—Blackeyed Susan, D. Bloor
1 Huntsman, W Griffiths
2 Blackeyed Susan, D. Bloor
3 Greensides, ditto
4 Auckland's Mary, ditto
5 Beauty of Rochdale, W. Griffiths

*Red-laced.*

Premier.—J. Sturge, W. Griffiths
1 Lady Antrobus, D Bloor
2 Splendens, W. Griffiths
3 Mary Ellen, ditto
4 Susanna, R. Moorley
5 Dr. Hepworth, ditto

*Black and White.*

Premier.—Barker's John O'Gaunt, R. Moorley
1 Blackeyed Susan, W. Griffiths
2 Blackeyed Susan, R. Moorley
3 Lady Boldhaughton, ditto
4 Kay's Mary, W. Griffiths
5 Snowball, R. Moorley

## PINK SHOW.

**At Mr. James Tittensor's, Waggon and Horses, Higherland, Newcastle-under-Lyme, July 19.**

*Purple-laced.*

Premier.—Huntsman, T. Bailey
1 Huntsman, T. Bailey
2 Auckland's Mary, E. Barker
3 Beauty of Rochdale, H. Eaton
4 Splendens, T. Bailey
5 Professor, H. Eaton

*Red-laced.*

Premier.—Dan O'Rourke, H. Eaton
1 Moorley's Dorothy, T, Bailey
2 J. Sturge, E. Barker
3 Dan O' Rourke, H. Eaton
4 Susanna, T. Bailey
5 Dr. Hepworth, ditto

*Black and White.*

Premier.—Barker's John O'Gaunt, E. Barker
1 Blackeyed Susan, H. Eaton
2 John O'Gaunt, E. Barker
3 White Rose, ditto
4 Lillia, T. Bailey
5 Beauty of Clayton, ditto

## CARNATION SHOW,

**Judge.—Mr. Moreton, Birmingham**

### CARNATIONS.

Premier Prize.—A beautiful bloom of a seedling purple flake, named Favourite, Addis.

Best Pan.—Sir Joseph Paxton, Admiral Curzon, Squire Meynell, Mr. Peto, Lady Curzon, and Aglaia, Mason.

*Scarlet Bizarres.*

1 Curzon, Mason
2 Lord Lewisham, Tunley
3 Curzon, Addis
4 Curzon, Bullock

*Crimson Bizarres.*

1 Lord Milton, Addis
2 Jenny Lind, Tunley
3 Black Diamond, Mason
4 Black Diamond, Bullock

*Scarlet Flakes.*

1 Lady Curzon, Addis
2 Sportsman, Mason
3 Queen Victoria, Tunley
4 Brilliant, Bullock

*Purple Flakes.*

1 Squire Meynell, Mason
2 Favourite, Addis
3 Agamemnon, Tunley
4 Squire Meynell, Bullock

*Rose Flakes.*

1 Delicata, Addis
2 Poor Tom, Tunley
3 Poor Tom, Mason
4 Lovely Ann, Bullock

### PICOTEES.

Best Pan.—Eugenie, Mrs. Lockner, Amy Robsart, Alfred, Bertha, Mrs. Bayley, Addis.

*Red-edged.*

1 Mrs. Lockner. Addis
2 Mrs. Kelk, Tunley
3 Mrs. Hoyle, Mason
4 Mrs. Kelk, Bullock

*Purple-edged.*

1 Alfred, Mason
2 Mrs. Bayley, Addis
3 Mrs. Bayley, Tunley
4 Alfred, Bullock,

*Rose-edged.*

1 Green's Queen, Mason
2 Miss Rosa, Tunley
3 Bertha, Addis
4 Miss Rosa, Bullock

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# S. Broome's Culture of the Chrysanthemum.

WHEN we undertook to conduct the *Midland Florist*, at the beginning of last year, we were advised by a friend to solicit aid from various persons, and among others, from Mr. Samuel Broome, gardener to the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple. This solicitation was answered by our friend Broome with a promise of help, and our readers can judge for themselves how far that promise has been fulfilled, by the numerous articles and hints which have appeared in our pages. All these are of great interest and full of really practical information. It is not, however, our intention merely to praise these articles, which are in themselves unique, with regard to Chrysanthemum growing, but to call the attention of our readers to the fact that Mr. Broome has collected the results of his many years experience, and published them, together with some of the best and most complete lists we have ever seen, in a neat well printed form. The price is only sixpence, which is remarkably cheap, considering that the information is really good; indeed many persons say it is too cheap, but it is not so much for profit as for the sake of affording information that books of this kind should be published. Mr. Broome introduces his subject by a very interesting address, the commencement of which we quote.

"On entering upon my duties, five and twenty years ago, I should have been glad to obtain the instruction



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I am now able to communicate. I met with much disappointment at finding my labour and skill productive but of small results. Fresh from the country, having received initiation into the mysteries of my profession in the gardens of one of the wealthiest of our nobility, I was but little prepared for the difference which exists between the growth of plants in the country and in large towns; those which in the pure air of the former grew almost spontaneously, would, notwithstanding the pains bestowed upon them, barely arrive at maturity in the smoky atmosphere of the latter. My previous experience availed me but little; I had almost everything to unlearn. However, I set about my task with *diligence*, coupled with *patience* and *perseverance*, and have been rewarded by a complete triumph over all such difficulties as were not insuperable." The following hints may prove acceptable.

"The first step to be taken by the amateur is to procure plants of good named flowers. These may be had very cheap, for many of the finest show flowers of the present day are favourites of old standing, and, the plants being of a very prolific nature, florists are enabled to put such a price upon them as brings them within the reach of every one. Amateurs are by no means advised to get rid of such plants as are at present in their possession, but, on the contrary, to try them another year, and treat them according to the directions here given. If they then produce good flowers, their names may be obtained without much difficulty. The best time for the purchase of plants for the purpose of making stock for the coming season is the first week in November, and not later than April. Many prefer March cuttings to November, and contend that they do quite as well and bloom as early. The decision of this matter I leave in the hands of the growers. Try both ways, and adopt the most successful."

We have not space for more, at present, or we might quote many other important lessons, and therefore cordially recommend the book to every one, whether a Chrysanthemum grower or not.

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# Select Lists of Florists' Flowers.

WE resume this subject, and give the following lists:—Tulips, from Mr. Wolfe, of London, and from L., a northern grower. Dahlias, from Mr. Harrison, of Darlington, and Mr. Wyness, gardener to her Majesty, at Buckingham Palace. Mr. W.'s list, we believe, will be found to suit all growers living in close proximity to large towns. Auriculas, from J. B., a midland grower; J. Hepworth, Lea Bridge-road; and L., a northern grower. Roses, from Mr. Allestree, of Draycott; Mr. Harrison, of Darlington; and Mr. Walker, of Winton.

We shall, in future numbers, give lists of Hollyhocks, Carnations, Picotees, Pansies, Pelargoniums, &c.; but as we have to suit the varied tastes of our readers, we cannot give more this month.

## TULIPS.

### L.'S LIST.

#### BIZARRES.

| | |
|---|---|
| Everard | Solon |
| Glencoe | Strong's King |
| Lord Berners | Selim |
| Lord Lilford | Sir J. Paxton |
| Marcellus | Sphinx |
| Pilot | Exquisite |
| Platoff | J. F. Wood |
| Polyphemus | Vivid |

#### BYBLŒMENS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Cinque Mars | Maid of Falaise |
| David | Nora Creina |
| Friend | Prince Albert (Reid) |
| Gem (Abbott) | Salvator Rosa |
| General Bournonville | Sir Harry Smith (May) |
| King Robert Bruce | Thalia |
| Kosciusko | Victoria Regina |
| Musidora | Violet Alexander |

#### ROSES.

| | |
|---|---|
| Aglaia | Duch. of Sutherland (Groom) |
| Arlette | Cerise a Belle Forme |
| Bion | Heroine |

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| | |
|---|---|
| Mary Lamb | Rose Celestial |
| Princess Maud | King of Saxony |
| Mountain Sylph | Lac |
| Rose Brathel | Claudiana |
| Rose Brillante | Catalani. |

## MR. H. WOLFE'S LIST.

### BIZARRES.

| *Feathered.* | *Flamed.* |
|---|---|
| Polyphemus | Shakspere |
| Duke of Devonshire (Dickson) | Everard (Bowers) |
| Elizabeth (Cotterill) | Don Cossack (Dark) |
| Platoff (Bartlett) | President (Hepworth) |
| King (Willison) | Eldorado (Cotterill) |
| Sir J. Paxton | Titian (Rutley) |
| Tarriff | Glory of Abingdon |
| Dr. Horner | Pilot (Gibbons) |

### BYBLŒMENS.

| *Feathered.* | *Flamed.* |
|---|---|
| Mrs. Beecher Stowe | Grace Darling (Gibbons) |
| David | Salvator Rosa (Brown) |
| Purity (Cotterill) | Princess Royal (Gibbons) |
| Queen of the North | Venus (Gibbons) |
| Violet Quarto | Napoleon (Reid) |
| Godet Parfait | Elthiron (Lawrence) |
| Grotius | Blœmart |
| Gem (Abbott) | Duch. of Sutherland (Walker) |

### ROSES.

| *Feathered.* | *Flamed.* |
|---|---|
| Ponceau tres Blanc | Cerise a Belle Forme |
| Triomphe Royale | Lady Catherine Gordon |
| Claudiana | Bacchus |
| Anastasia | Madame Catalani |
| Bion (Dixon) | Lady Stanley |
| Mary Lamb | Helen (Headly) |
| Gem (Willison) | Duch. of Sutherland (Groom) |
| Mountain Sylph | Countess (Clark) |

# DAHLIAS.

## MR. J. HARRISON'S LIST.

| | |
|---|---|
| Admiral Dundas | Grand Sultan |
| Bessie | Incomparable |
| Chrysalis | Lady Popham |
| Colonel Windham | Mrs. Legge |
| Cherub | Lord Cardigan |
| Empress (Procter) | Midnight |
| Fanny Keynes | Lady Franklin |

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| | |
|---|---|
| Touchstone | Mrs. Wheeler |
| Royal Scarlet | Perfection (Keynes) |
| Lord Palmerston | Sir F. Bathurst |
| Malvina | Ruby Queen |
| Miss Caroline | Princess (Rea) |

MR. WYNESS'S LIST.

| | |
|---|---|
| Admiral Dundas | Fame |
| Amazon | General Faucher |
| Absalom | Lollipop |
| Beauty of Slough | Lord Palmerston |
| Beauty of Grove | Lord Cardigan |
| Colonel Windham | Mrs. C. Bacon |
| Dr. Gully | Pre-eminent |
| Duc de Malakoff | Queen of Whites |
| Empress | Robert Bruce |
| Eclipse | Richard Cobden |
| Duchess of Kent | Sir F. Bathurst |
| Fearless | Sir Charles Napier |

FANCIES.

| | |
|---|---|
| Attraction | La Vogue |
| Cleopatra | Lady Paxton |
| Butterfly | Magician |
| Baron Alderson | Miss Frampton |
| Duchess of Kent, tipped | Mrs. Hansard |
| Inimitable | Pigeon |

## AURICULAS.

J. B.'S LIST.

GREEN EDGES.

Robin Hood (Hepworth) | Champion (Page)
Matilda (Dixon)

GREY EDGES.

Lancashire Hero (Cheetham) | Ne plus ultra (Fletcher)
Complete (Sykes)

WHITE EDGES.

True Briton (Hepworth) | Conqueror (Popplewell)
Earl Grosvenor (Lee)

SELFS.

Othello (Netherwood) | Royal Purple (Headly)
Nonsuch (Barker)

MR. J. HEPWORTH'S LIST.

GREEN EDGES.

| | |
|---|---|
| Leigh's Colonel Taylor | Booth's Freedom |
| Campbell's Lord Palmerston | Page's Champion |



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GREY EDGES.

| | |
|---|---|
| Cheetham's Lancashire Hero | Fletcher's Ne plus ultra |
| Sykes's Complete | Kenyon's Ringleader |

WHITE EDGES.

| | |
|---|---|
| Hepworth's Briton | Taylor's Favourite |
| Ashworth's Regular | Lee's Bright Venus |

SELFS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Netherwood's Othello | Whittaker's True Blue |
| Kay's Jupiter | Berrey's Lord Primate |

L.'S LIST.

GREEN EDGES.

Beeston's Apollo | Leigh's Colonel Taylor
Page's Champion

GREY EDGES.

Chapman's Maria | Cheetham's Lancashire Hero
Syke's Complete

WHITE EDGES.

Campbell's Robert Burns | Lee's Earl Grosvenor
Taylor's Glory

SELFS.

Lightbody's Meteor Flag | Netherwood's Othello
Spalding's Blackbird

## ROSES.

MR. T. ALLESTREE'S LIST.

PERPETUALS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Baron de Heckeren | Mathurin Regnier |
| Baronne Hallez | Paul Dupuy |
| Baronne Prevost | Prince Leon |
| Geant des Batailles | William Griffiths |
| General Cavaignac | Dupetit Thours |
| General Negrier | Julie de Fontenelle |
| Gloire de France | Madame Angelina |
| Graziella | Paul Joseph |
| Laure Ramond | Souvenir de la Malmaison |
| Lord Raglan | Cramoisie superieure |
| Madame Laffay | Devoniensis |
| Madame Rivers | Gloire de Dijon |

SUMMER.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Boula de Nanteuil | Madame Hardy | Ohl |
| Comte Plater | Kean | Paul Ricaut |
| Emmerance | Neron | Schismaker |
| Felicite | Œillet parfait | Sophie de Marsilly |

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MOSS.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Blush | Lancel | Prolific |
| Crested | Laneii | White Bath |

## MR. J. HARRISON'S LIST.

PERPETUALS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Auguste Mie | Madame Rivers |
| Alexander Bachmeteff | Paul Dupuy |
| Baronne Hallez | Prince Leon |
| Comte de Nanteuil | William Griffiths |
| Duchesse de Montpensier | Louise Peronny |
| L'Elegante Nouvelle | General Jacqueminot |
| General Simpson | Caroline de Sansal |
| General Cavaignac | La Riene |
| General Brea | Souvenir de la Malmaison |
| Jules Margottin | Sir John Franklin. |
| Lord Raglan | Gloire de Dijon |
| Madame Masson | Devoniensis |

## MR. J. WALKER'S LIST.

HYBRID BOURBONS.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Charles Duval | Coupe d'Hebe | Paul Ricaut |

PERPETUAL MOSS.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Alfred de Dalmas | Madame Edouard Ory | Salet |

BOURBONS.

| | |
|---|---|
| George Cuvier | Reveil |
| Henri Lecoq | Queen |
| La Quintinie | Souvenir de la Malmaison |

HYBRID PERPETUALS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Auguste Mie | Laure Ramond |
| Baronne Laray | Lord Raglan |
| Borceau imperial (new) | Madam Rivers |
| Duchesse de Cambaceres | Mathurin Regnier |
| Jules Margottin | Prince Chipetouzikoff |
| Lady Alice Peel | William Griffiths |

# Balsams.

SEEING, in *Glenny's Almanack* for 1856, some remarks on growing Balsams in the open air, I tried an experiment with them, last year, but, as I had not the time or means of attending to them in pots,

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I grew them in the open ground, which had been well manured with good rotten dung, a year previously. I sowed the seed in heat, about the last week in April, and, when large enough, they were potted off singly, into three-inch pots, and kept in heat until well rooted, and then removed to a cold frame, kept well watered, had plenty of air, and the blooms were picked off, until about the 12th of June, when they were planted out in the open air, without any kind of protection or support. The bloom buds were picked off until they showed on the side branches, and the leading shoot was pinched out. They were left without any staking, or future care, except being occasionally watered. They came out a mass of bloom, were in shape like a well regulated Gooseberry bush, and measured more than two feet over, and the same in height, and several of their stems more than four and a half inches round. A bloom I took from one of the plants measured above two and a half inches over, and was as double as a Camellia. A neighbouring amateur, who saw this bloom by candle-light, mistook it, at first sight, for a Madame Laffay Rose. The above were grown in the East Riding of Yorkshire, within ten miles of the sea coast. But it must be borne in mind that the weather, last summer, was much milder than for several years past; yet, if others would try, I doubt not but that they would surpass, by far, what I have done, as I confess that I was prevented giving that attention to them which I should have done if I had had more leisure.

AN AMATEUR.

## Descriptive List of New Dahlias.

AT your solicitation, I herewith send you a list of the Dahlias let out last season, with a full description attached, and have no doubt it will be found useful to all your readers, at the present season.

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***Lady Popham*** (Turner).—White, delicately edged with purple; medium size, of the finest form; a chaste neat flower, of great depth and substance, with close high centre; an early free bloomer, always to be depended upon; good habit. Height four feet

***Duchess of Beaufort*** (Bush).—White, heavily tipped and edged with crimson purple; a fine-formed flower, of good outline, with smooth evenly-cupped florets and close high centre; an early free bloomer, constant, habit good. Height four feet.

***Royal Scarlet*** (Keynes).—Crimson scarlet; a deep fine-formed flower, with close high centre and beautiful outline; florets neat, stout, and well arranged; constant free bloomer, requires pruning freely, and disbudding. Height three feet.

***Harbinger*** (Fellowes).—Bright scarlet; a deep large flower, with compact high centre and good general form, but not equal to Royal Scarlet in petal and outline; a constant free bloomer, and will prove useful. Height three to four feet.

***Mrs. Edwards*** (Summers).—Rose; a deep flower, of good substance, with smooth well-arranged cupped florets, close compact centre, and most exquisite outline; a constant free bloomer, and has only to be seen to be appreciated. Height three feet.

***Sir Sidney Herbert*** (Keynes).—Bright rosy crimson; a large deep fine-formed flower, with small close-set florets, compact high centre, and good outline; one of the finest and most useful flowers for exhibition; constant free bloomer, always to be depended upon. Height four to five feet.

***Colonel Pennant*** (Witham).—Crimson; a deep fine-formed flower, of good substance, close high centre, florets small, close-set, and a little reflexed, but not pointed; a useful flower for exhibition. Height four feet.

***Charley*** (Keynes).—Rich dark marone, nearly black; a large flower, of great substance, with small well-formed florets and good centre; equal in form to Lollipop, and better in petal; as a dark flower, unrivalled. This variety, at times, is striped with lilac, and shown as a fancy flower, under the name of Charles Perry. Constant free bloomer, habit good. Height three feet.

***Midnight*** (Fellowes).—Dark marone, shaded and edged with purple; a large fine-formed flower, with stout, smooth, well-arranged florets and good centre; a noble show flower, but loses its marone shade late in the season, being then a bright scarlet; a fine bold flower, a constant, but late bloomer. Height three feet.

***Cherub*** (Holmes).—Bright light orange yellow; new in colour, a deep fine-formed flower, with compact high centre, smooth evenly-cupped florets, and good outline; a constant free bloomer, of good habit, and an exquisite show flower. Height four feet.

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*Lord Cardigan* (Keynes).—Salmon buff, shaded with brown; a large, deep, fine-formed flower, with neat well-arranged florets and close high centre, good substance and outline, and good habit; a noble show flower. Four to five feet.

*Lady Franklin* (Rawlings).—Buff, shaded with dull red; good petal and outline, fine form, close high centre, good habit, and a constant free bloomer; larger and deeper in colour than its namesake, Sir John Franklin. Height four feet.

*Touchstone* (Fellowes).—Purple; a large, smooth, fine-formed flower, with exquisite outline and close good centre; an early bloomer, constant, and one of the most useful. Height from three to four feet.

*Delta* (Turner).—Yellow; a stout fine-formed flower, with close high centre; medium size, and resembling Bessie in form, but lighter in colour; a fine show flower. Three feet.

*William Tell.*—Clear primrose; a large, deep, well-formed flower, with stout cupped petals and close high centre; useful show flower and constant free bloomer. Height three feet.

*Roland* (Bush).—White, heavily tipped with crimson purple; medium size, a fine-formed flower, with high centre, and a constant free bloomer. Height four feet

*Fenella* (Holmes).—White, deeply veined and mottled with purple; medium size, of great depth, with compact high centre; the florets small, stout, and a little ribbed; free early bloomer. Height three feet.

*Mrs. Turner* (Church).—Fawn, suffused with crimson purple, and yellow at the base of the petals; a large fine-formed flower, resembling Rachel Rawlings in form; requires cutting out, as it produces its flowers on short foot-stalks. Height three feet.

*Mont Blanc* (Fellowes).—White, of a greenish shade; a large full flower, with good centre; petals over large and deficient in depth. Height four feet.

*Cardinal* (Skynner).—Bright scarlet; a full flower, with scolloped petals, uneven outline, and flat face. Height three feet.

*Cavalier* (Fellowes).—Dull red; a large deep flower, constant, and a profuse bloomer. Height three feet.

*Dr. Gully* (Fowler).—Yellow, tipped with crimson, and a small distinct tip of golden yellow at the end of the petal, which are long, pointed, and too far apart; good centre, but the flower is deficient in outline and compactness, yet most striking in colour, and may do as a border variety, although used for exhibition.

*Duke of Devonshire* (Dodds).—Rosy lilac, shaded with white at the base of the petals; a deep fine-formed flower, with smooth petals and good outline, but uncertain. Height from two to three feet.

*Edward* (Dodds).—Dull buff and faded brown; a large constant free-blooming flower, with close high centre, but dingy in colour and coarse. Height three feet.

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*Mrs. Critchett* (Rawlings).—Nankeen buff, tinted with amber; petals smooth and well arranged, compact high centre, but deficient in substance for this part of the country, as the back petals fade before the flower is half blown; otherwise it would be a desirable variety. Height four feet.

CHARLES LEICESTER.

*Macclesfield.*

# The Science of Floriculture.

BY G. GLENNY.

PERHAPS there is scarcely a flower on which the science of floriculture has been practised more successfully than the Pansy. The great merit of improving this little favourite belongs to Mr. Thompson, of Iver, and all the advancement has been effected in our own time. Many now living, as well as ourselves, can recollect the Heartsease very little better than the original weed called Love *and* Idleness, or Love *in* Idleness, no matter which, and for many years the only improved varieties were a large, coarse, dark blue one, and George the Fourth, which had a yellow margin round the upper petals. Thompsoni, which also had some other names, was the result of the next move, and then Brown, Mountjoy, and several others, had novelties, which came out at high prices; but it was still the work of the great father of Pansies, Thompson, of Iver, who sold unbloomed seedlings by hundreds to nurserymen, who, of course, bought them with the right of naming them. Thompson, however, kept the lead, so far as raising went, and still size and colour were the only qualities necessary for a new variety. In 1832 came out our ideal model of a perfect Pansy, in one of our papers called "The Properties of Flowers," showing the standard which, in our mind, would constitute a first-class Pansy. Mr. Thompson had many fine novelties, and though he agreed with us in all the points but one, he could not for a long time give up to that point.

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We insisted that the light colour—improperly, perhaps, called the ground, but nevertheless so described—that is to say, the white, yellow, or straw-coloured field, must be the same on all the petals, and to us the cause of his difference was very apparent. He had many very fine flowers, good in shape, smoothness of edge, and texture, but the side petals paler than the bottom. We battled upon this point at every show, when we met, but directly we established the standard, it was attended to in the choice of seedlings from a bed, and also of flowers from which to breed. With Thompson's best varieties in cultivation, everybody could raise seedlings, and novelties came thick and fast. Eclipse was a fine yellow ground flower, with the side petals a little paler than the bottom; nevertheless it was sometimes so near that a blind man would be glad to see the difference, and it was in many stands on show days. Mr. Thompson, however, at length raised some quite right in that particular, and not till then would our worthy friend give up the point. Set a yellow-ground flower, with the yellow field of the same shade on the three lower petals, by one which is darker in the bottom ones than on the side, and the point will be settled at once. Now, nobody disputes with us upon a single point, and many flowers closely approach our ideal standard, although we were told at the outset it was impossible. Some flowers may now be found round, smooth on the edges, of good texture, the eye not breaking through the field to touch the border, and flat on the face. That there is room for improvement no one can dispute, and nobody hails the launching of a new variety with greater pleasure than we do. But we repeat, that the merit of "elevating the Pansy to the rank of a florist's flower belongs to Thompson, of Iver." The Geranium, or rather the Pelargonium, has also been the produce of men in our time. Perhaps Dennis's Perfection was one that made an early noise, and Daveyana had its day, but Foster (of Clewn), Dobson (at Mr. Beck's), and Hoyle, were beyond measure successful in bringing the Pelargonium near to our standard. Still the Pelar-

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gonium of the present day is the result of great attention and skill, with a proper model to direct their taste. Of more recent date, the doings of Mr. Turner, of the Slough Nursery, must not be forgotten. Nor would it be fair to pass over unnoticed some of the varieties raised by Gains. But Mr. Dobson has, since he started for himself, been busy, and has added many fine varieties to the already fine collections, and we must touch again upon this subject. At all events, the entire family of Pelargoniums, extensive as it now is, were unknown but a few years ago, and the great movement has been made since we laid down a standard, towards which everybody has striven to approach in the last few years.

## Cyclamens.

THE following hints, by a successful grower of the Cyclamen persicum and coum, may not be unacceptable to the readers of the *Midland Florist*. I shall first state, that I grow all my plants from seed, and, considering the little trouble they are, and the fine show they make from February to May, with their delicate white and red flowers, to say nothing of the scent of Persicum, I am surprised they are not more generally grown. To commence, then, with the seed; and, first, the soil should be half good sandy loam, and half leaf mould, to which add, for the seed, a good quantity of sharp sand. As soon as the seed is ripe, sow it in shallow pans, and place them in a shady part of the greenhouse, or cold frame, or, for want of these, in a shady window in the house. I have found the seed vegetate soonest in a heat of fifty degrees. More brings them up weakly, and many damp or die off. They must never be left too dry; from the time of sowing, the soil must be kept damp, but not wet. By the end of September, they will be all up, and they must be kept from frost, during winter. Close to the glass, in



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the greenhouse, is the best place. About the following May, pot the Persicums singly, into the size called small sixties, using the same soil as before, with not quite so much sand, and put them into a cold frame, in the shade. The Coums may be planted out, in a shady border, preparing the soil the same as for those in pots. Here they will remain till the following September, and will only require watering when dry. The Persicums will now require shifting into forty-eights, one bulb in each pot, and the Coums five bulbs into the same sized pot, using the same kind of soil, with less sand. The following spring, they will flower; and, after this, the only care they require is, when the bloom is over, look well after the seed, place them in the shade, and never let them bake up for want of water; in other words, keep them moist, but not wet. Once in two or three years is often enough to shift them; and then take care not to injure the roots, and always let it be done in September. They will force, if wanted early, but should never be placed in a heat over fifty degrees.

G. A. M.

## My Flower Garden.

LAST month, I made mention of propagating and wintering Calceolarias under hand-lights. This month, I prick them out into trenches, four or five feet wide, similar to celery trenches, the banks of earth on each side serving as walls, on which I fix across the trench some stakes, to support a covering of calico, or other light material, to shelter from frost, and, during the day, from the sun, until they are established, gradually exposing them more and more, as the weather permits.

The hand-lights are now brought into use for raising half hardy annuals, and some that are usually termed perennials, as Verbena venosa, Garrya Lindheimerii, Cupheas, Ageratums, the dwarf-growing Lobelias, &c.

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I make a ridge, about three feet wide and the same in depth, of *well worked* fermenting materials. If dung is scarce, I use but half the quantity, and substitute sawdust and leaves. Then put on a layer of about three inches of leaf mould, or well decayed manure; on this, about two inches of a well pulverized compost, and at once sow the seeds, shading from the heat of the sun, during the day, until each light is fairly up, paying particular attention to giving air, that none get drawn; and as soon as fit to handle, prick off into shallow boxes or beds such as they are to be grown on, before finally planted out. In many gardening books, directions are given for potting off most plants for the flower garden. Out of upwards of six thousand, I scarcely ever spring pot one, having for years found it a better plan to collect fermenting materials, for a slight bottom heat, place on the bed a layer of half decayed leaves, and then the compost best suited to the wants of the plants. The most tender or scarce sorts have a glass protection, but many are without it. The plants grow much larger, can seldom suffer for want of moisture, and are readily removed in balls, which is seldom before the first week in June. All who wish to have a supply in hand, for making good any failures through summer, should propagate a sufficiency, especially of any that are liable to mishaps. As I recommended last month, avoid all doubtful plants. In your kitchen garden arrangement, or the plot of ground away from the flower garden, keep in reserve a piece of ground for all surplus plants, of which I hope to say something at a future time. Sow hardy annuals, in beds or borders. Mark out the intended patches or rows, and, with the rake, break the soil well, and form an even and fine surface for the seeds; then be careful in not covering too deep, and when up, thin out *at once*. The neglect of these simple matters has led to innumerable failures and disappointments, and seeds which would have made beautiful flowering plants have been condemned as worthless. Towards the end of the month, thin out shoots of herbaceous plants, as Phloxes, Veronicas, &c. The plants will flower longer and better, and if desira-

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ble, the shoots or slips will grow readily, if put into a sandy compost, on a north or east border, and, by the autumn, make nice plants, and be in readiness for planting, in lieu of large old roots, which too often are found on mixed borders. Where improvements are contemplated in this too often neglected department of the garden, notes should be made of all plants not readily known when dead down, in the autumn, which is the best time for renovating mixed borders, by deep digging or trenching, and replanting. How often do we see the mixed border mar the beauty of the flower garden, in summer, when associated with beds planted in masses, simply for want of a better system in preparing the ground, to enable the plants to withstand with impunity the summer sun, or the want of the watering pot. Any beds of an unkind soil, or the least wanting in suitable materials for the healthy growth of the different plants, should not be neglected, or disappointment will follow. Where not completed, all such operations as digging borders, laying down turf, sowing grass seeds, making walks, &c. must not be delayed.

Who would not admire the beauties of a well-arranged spring flower garden? Last month, I recommended notes to be made of spring-flowering plants. Continue the same, and I hope, by and by, with the permission of our worthy editor, to give, in the *Midland Florist*, a few hints on spring flower gardening.

Such plants as Arabis, Ambretias, the Golden and Silver Thyme, Vincas, &c. can be easily propagated on borders, as recommended for other herbaceous plants; indeed, try your hand at all hardy plants you want to increase. Small slips of almost all hardy perennials will strike readily this month. Frequently roll the grass, and do not delay mowing and sweeping it well, in the early part of the season. In mentioning the grass, I would throw out a hint about the ornamental grasses, many of which are elegant, and deserving of far more extended cultivation.

JAMES KIDD,
GARDENER TO T. TRYON, ESQ., BULWICK PARK, WANSFORD.

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# My Greenhouse.

COLEONEMA RUBRA, with its half pendulous branches, looking graceful in or out of flower, is one of the general favourites. It wants no sticks and ties; though, unfortunately, the present taste for a hundred uprights causes it to be vilely used in many places. There is not a more graceful plant, and when studded all over with its pink star-like flowers, it is beautiful. I look at it with interest, because it blooms always alike, not like some things which we see, sometimes full, and at other seasons bare, but always showy, graceful, and interesting.

TROPÆOLUM JARRETTH is Tropæolum tricolor with a larger flower. This is a climbing plant, with a stem which is never thicker than a strong thread, even at the bottom, and yet the plant will climb and run over a wire shield three feet in diameter, and be covered with one mass of blooms, of brilliant scarlet, black, and yellow. It requires daily attention, for it grows fast, and soon gets tangled, if it be not properly trained every twenty-four hours. I prefer a good fernlike bush to train it on, for it is more natural, and I think it likes wood better than iron to run upon and cling to.

RHYNCOSPERMUM JASMINOIDES.—A very beautiful climbing plant, bearing racimes of white flowers, in great profusion, all over it, and growing freely on any kind of trellis, or other support. I have only half-a-dozen upright sticks round the edge of the pot, and train the plant round and round, outside it. The plant gives very little trouble, and is a general favourite; indeed, at recent horticultural shows, it has been rather a conspicuous figure. It is always a bright evergreen, and now its bloom buds are thick all over the plant.

LESCHENAULTIA MAJOR AND L. BILOBA SPLENDENS are heath-like subjects, with rather loose flowers, but so abundant as to literally cover the plants. L. major is a brilliant scarlet, and L. biloba splendens is a bright blue. Nothing is more neat and showy in a greenhouse.

CYCLAMEN PERSICUM AND PERSICUM RUBRUM.—There is no prettier dwarf plant than the Cyclamen. The old Persicum is well known. The red Persicum possesses a claim that very few plants do. The bright red flowers, contrasted with the white of its fellow plant, make a pretty show among the best collections, and the plant requires but little care or attention. It is a sort of close hard bulb, like a Crocus, but larger.

HYACINTHS AND NARCISSUS greatly contribute to the beauty of the greenhouse just now, and the variety of colours is extensive. These were potted in November, and have only had the ordinary temperature.

At page 70, I noticed the subjects that were in bloom, and this month has made a most conspicuous



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and beautiful addition, although it belongs to the most hardy of flowering shrubs. I allude to

SPIRÆA PRUNIFOLIA FLORE PLENO, which, in plain English, is double flowering. This is literally covered with little bunches of white Roses, not larger than half a Pea, and pretty nearly as round, or rather half round, and as pure in colour as the "driven snow." It is not known half enough, for, though it is as beautiful as can be imagined in the greenhouse now, those which are out-of-doors will be quite as handsome in another month or six weeks.

DEUTZIA GRACILIS is just opening its fine racimes of flowers, not quite so white as the Spiræa, because the bellike blooms have thinner petals, but its abundant flowers, on plants not six inches high, are very conspicuous. Both this plant and the last-mentioned force admirably.

With regard to the management of the greenhouse, take care that nothing is watered till it wants moisture, and to guard against damp, give fire on dull cloudy days, and open the top lights a little, to let out the vapour. When the days are bright and not frosty, give air during the warmest hours. I am never afraid of cold, if it be only two or three degrees above freezing, and no wind. Geraniums are growing fast See that any branches that are growing too fast for the rest of the plant are stopped back, to keep the plant in good form.

## My Stove, or Hothouse.

FRANCISCEA HOPEANA is one of the best stove plants, because there is a beautiful perfume, and Franciscea latifolia is still more beautiful, but has no scent whatever. These are very liable to an attack of the mealy bug, and must be washed with soap suds, warm, and a brush that will reach the corners, the instant any are discovered. They both bloom when very small, and if carefully managed, will grow to a considerable size, and bloom every season. The cuttings strike root very readily, and should be potted singly, in three-inch pots, and the tops pinched off, to make them break out into lateral shoots. When these are two inches long, the tops should be pinched out, for the more shrubby these

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plants are the better. The first variety has flowers about the size of a shilling, and the latter has them full the size of half-a-crown. One peculiarity in the flower is that it opens pure white, and turns purple. In this respect it is peculiar, and especially as there are white and purple blooms all over the plant.

BRUGMANSIA KNIGHTII.—This is variously treated, for I have plants in the stove, in the greenhouse, and growing up in pits, to be planted out like Dahlias; but it is a good plant, and blooms finer in the stove than any where else, besides being considerably earlier. I have them growing in one-third loam, from rotted turf, one-third peat, and one-third dung, from an old hotbed; indeed, almost every stove plant will grow well in this compost. I shift from one sized pot to another, as fast as they fill with roots. This plant is very inviting to the red spider, and a moist heat is the only preventive. The stove should never be dry. Syringing under the leaves is beneficial, but the floor and pipes should be frequently watered. It is not so subject to the spider in the greenhouse, or in the open ground.

STRELITZIA REGINA is a noble plant, with a flower almost like a bird's head, of brilliant orange and purple, lasts a long time in flower, but does not often bloom. In most places, this plant is almost starved, for the roots soon fill a large pot, and it gets neglected when it has grown to a good size. I have given it plenty of room, and therefore the foliage is handsome; but if the pot gets full of roots, and it does not get shifted, the leaves are soon shabby.

ARDESIA CRENULATA is grown for its berries, which are like coral, when ripe, and last brilliant for many months. These berries come all round the plant. The crown grows up in the centre, blooms freely, having a small white flower, not very conspicuous, except for quantity. The berries soon form, and the new crop is a bright red before the old ones fall. It is a pretty evergreen, and if taken care of while young, forms a very handsome little tree. Each year the fruit sets above the old berries, so that, in time, the plant gets tall, but is always graceful. The same soil as I have already described, will answer well for the Ardesia.

RUSSALLIA JUNCEA is one of the most elegant plants in the stove. The foliage is very inconspicuous, but its stems weep like a willow, in fact, it hangs down three feet below the pot, which should be on a pedestal, and grow all round alike, or if on a shelf, it can only hang down in front. When well done, it is a bright green, and its brilliant scarlet flowers, which are a good deal the form of a Barberry, come out all over the stems. If this plant is once allowed to get foul, you can scarcely ever clean it, or even save it alive; it must, therefore, be watched daily. Cuttings strike readily, and must be constantly stopped, as it is called, as fast as the branches get long enough, until

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you have got a sufficient number to make a show, and then it may grow on. It must be shifted every time the pots fill with roots. The general management of the stove now should be constant heat and moisture, not less than seventy to seventy-five degrees by day, and sixty to sixty-five by night. The moisture must be kept up by watering the floor and pipes or flues, and by a free use of the syringe. Cuttings of everything may be taken when in proper order, and be struck in bottom heat, under a bell-glass, within the rim of the pot. Achimenes and Gloxineas, which die down, are now beginning to move, and may be fresh potted.

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## On the Cultivation of the Mimulus.

NOTWITHSTANDING the remarks made by me, a few years since, in the *Gardeners' Chronicle*, and those that followed, from A. Clapham, Esq., of Scarborough, to whom we are indebted for some of the finest varieties of Mimulus, and who kindly offered to give three seedling varieties, from his own superb stock, to whomsoever might succeed in inducing the Horticultural Society to give a prize to such things, but little progress, I fear, has yet been made, in regard to the cultivation of this fine flower; certainly no one has exhibited a group, in order to try what the different societies might have been disposed to do, had a collection of well-grown plants been brought before them. It is true, we have since had some fine varieties offered for sale, and several tradesmen have already commenced to add a list of names in their catalogues; but, as yet, they do not occupy the position in the mind of the florist and gardener they deserve to do. I am of opinion that they are, in every respect, equal in beauty to the Calceolaria, and, certainly, less difficult to manage; in fact, few flowers are more showy, during the spring months, than the Mimulus, and its treatment is simple and easy, which may possibly, in some measure, account for the neglect into which it has fallen. I have for years, the present one excepted,

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grown several huge specimen plants of the Mimulus, and the display they have made in my conservatory has well repaid me for the time and trouble bestowed on them, and has induced me to offer the following remarks respecting their culture.

The Mimulus may be propagated with facility, as it strikes root from nearly every joint, and forms a huge specimen in a short time. Cuttings, or pieces taken off early in autumn, will, no doubt, be sufficiently rooted to admit of their being potted at once into six-inch pots, which should be placed in a cool frame, and water liberally supplied, occasionally watering the plants overhead, with a fine rose. But little air should be given during the first fortnight, after which, admit it freely, in the morning, closing rather early, with the afternoon sun, and slightly sprinkling the plants overhead. As soon as they have filled the pots with roots, give them a liberal shift, say into eight-inch pots, and carefully peg down each shoot in the mould, in order that they may emit fresh roots. Continue to frequently sprinkle them overhead, in dry weather, and on dewy nights leave them fully exposed, as they delight in plenty of moisture. But little is gained by stopping Mimuluses more than once; for, if kept well pegged down, they break out at nearly every joint, and soon form sufficiently large and handsome specimens. The last shift should be given them about January, when liquid manure will be found very beneficial. If the plants have been kept sufficiently moist, greenfly will not be found troublesome. Little more can now be done to secure good specimens, with the exception of neatly tying, and keeping them sufficiently moist. If they become pot bound, they will be benefitted by being placed in a pan of water, during their blooming season. After they have done flowering, and the seed is gathered, the flower stems may be cut off, and the plants placed in a shady situation, or turned out into the open borders, where they will flourish freely; and if a little fresh compost is placed around them, they will quickly take root, and may be parted in the

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autumn into portions best suited to the convenience of the cultivator. The pots should be thoroughly drained, and the soil should consist of one part fibrous loam, one part leaf mould, one part rotten cow dung, one part sand or mortar rubbish, with a portion of fibrous peat, all thoroughly incorporated, and used in a rough state.

Seed of the Mimulus may be sown from May until July, in pans, or in the open border. The soil should be fine, and pressed down firmly, previous to the sowing of the seed, which, in consequence of being so very small, should not be covered, but merely pressed down. The young plants intended for pot culture, should be potted off into three-inch pots, as soon as they become sufficiently large to handle, and should then receive the treatment described above.

The Mimulus may also be successfully cultivated out of doors; and if covered with ashes, sand, or old tan, during the winter, they will make a fine display in the spring. Seedlings should be carefully attended to and protected from slugs, until they have become sufficiently established, when they will soon be found to amply repay the care and trouble bestowed upon them.

EDWARD BENNETT,
GARDENER TO SIR O. P. WAKEMAN, BART.,
PERDISWELL HALL, WORCESTER.

## The Raspberry.

AMONGST our hardy fruits, there are none, I think, can claim a superiority over this; it being, when properly cultivated, prolific in crop and delicious in flavour, and finding a ready market, when grown in abundance. But how often do we see nine or ten canes tied together, like a faggot for the baker's oven, or the tops joined together, and forming an arch. How is it likely that fruit produced on laterals of the current year's growth can be properly matured, when so compressed, and thus debarred of the necessary

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influence of light, air, and heat. And this method of training, if it can be so called, we not very unfrequently see practised by persons who designate themselves gardeners, and who are rewarded for their labour by small, scrubby, and ill-flavoured fruit. No doubt the first business is to obtain first-rate varieties, which are not so very expensive as some other fruit plants, and which, under proper cultivation, are increased *ad libitum*. I have grown most of the varieties which have been offered to the public the last forty years. I shall not enumerate all their names, but endeavour to content your numerous readers with those that I have proved to answer the best with me, and the method of cultivation I have found to succeed the best.

For kitchen purposes, I recommend the Filby, or Fastolff, as it is sometimes named. This, with good and proper treatment, is a noble berry; I have grown it the size of a man's thumb, a clean and well-formed fruit. But this variety is far surpassed in sweetness and flavour by Walker's Dulcis, a very fine berry; but I never could grow it so large as the former. As a dessert fruit, it certainly stands unrivalled amongst Raspberries, and the horticultural world are deeply indebted to its energetic raiser. I might have added, the first is of a deep red colour, when ripe, and the latter deep pink. To those persons who require a white variety, I should say, if you can obtain it true, plant Scalter's Magnum Bonum. This grows to a large size, is strong in its habit, and of good flavour.

Having obtained plants of any or all the above varieties, which plants I would not recommend to be taken from an old stool, but such as have been taken up from a distance, although they may not be so long and so strong, yet they will have a mass of fibrous roots, which ought to direct the choice of the purchaser. I have observed persons select canes for planting on account of their length and thickness, and have told them they would meet with disappointment when the fruiting season came. Thus prepared with good plants, choose an open space, if possible. No fruit can possess

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a fine flavour, if shaded from the sun. Open a trench, in a line north and south, eighteen inches deep and two feet wide. If practicable, obtain the top spit of a pasture, formed of sandy soil, chop it up, and mix it with an equal quantity of decayed cow dung, fill the trench to within six inches of the top with the compost, then add about an inch of the soil thrown out, and put in the plants about ten inches asunder; but if a late crop is desired, plant five inches apart, alternately, a large and small cane, and in May, cut back the small canes to about eighteen inches high, and they will fruit late in the season. Having filled up the trench with the remaining soil, so as to form a ridge, drive in some stakes firmly, leaving five feet out of the ground, to which nail or tie two tiers of rails. If the expense is no consideration, two or three tiers of galvanized wire, affixed to the posts, form a durable and neat trellis, to which the canes may be tied, and made secure from the effects of the wind. However strong the canes may be, I always cut them back to six feet. During the winter, I give them liberal supplies of liquid manure, and, if the weather be dry, once or twice, during the fruiting season. Thus established, a plantation will amply repay the cultivator, for a great number of years. From one trellis, thirty yards long, I have gathered seventy quarts of fruit, besides having a hundred spare canes.

JOSEPH BURGESS.

*Knutsford.*

## Culture of Tender Azaleas.

IN our collections of greenhouse and conservatory plants, this genus, on account of its great beauty, is worthy of the most persevering attention of the cultivator. They may be made to bloom nearly all the year round, according as the plants may be introduced into a growing temperature, and every requisite means

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should be used to obtain a quantity of healthy specimens, of all sizes beyond those growing in four-and-a-half-inch pots. At an earlier period of life, my practice in the cultivation of this genus was rather extensive. More so than in my present situation, in which, however, I have still some under my care. Therefore, a few remarks in allusion to my mode of culture may be useful to some of your readers, who may require information as to their general treatment; but I have no new theory, nothing new in practice to promulgate, but simply a mode of treatment by which I have always obtained good plants.

PROPAGATION.—In this there is frequently some difficulty experienced on the part of the inexpert cultivator, but which I am inclined to think rather originates from the absence of one or more of the necessary conditions which must assuredly exist in the locality of the cuttings, than from any natural inherent obstinacy in the cuttings to emit roots. Plants of a hard-wooded nature are more difficult to root than plants of a succulent habit. But this difficulty is in a great measure overcome, if attention be paid to the proper selection of the means employed in the process of propagation. The following are the most prominent features in the propagation of these plants:—The healthy state of the plants from which cuttings are taken, the time at which cuttings are taken, the state of the parts selected as cuttings, the preparation of the cuttings, the material into which the cuttings are inserted, the place and its temperature into which the cuttings are to be put. As to the healthy state of the plants from which cuttings are to be obtained, ample directions will be furnished in a future portion of my remarks. The time at which cuttings are to be taken must depend on the time when the plants which are to produce them are excited into bloom. Those which have done blooming between the middle of February and the middle of March, I have selected as the best to take cuttings from. After they have finished blooming, a short period of rest, say about a fortnight or three weeks, in a cool dry tem-



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perature, is of great service. After that time, it will be necessary to submit them to a temperature not exceeding, at first, fifty-five degrees by night, and from sixty-five to seventy by day, in clear weather. In this temperature, with occasional applications of manure water, after they have started into active growth, and a liberal use of the syringe, charged with soft water, morning and evening,—or even a charge or two of weak manure water, during the week, will benefit them—the plants will make good strong growth, if not kept in too close an atmosphere, and by the middle of May or beginning of June, the wood will be in condition for cuttings.

The state of the parts selected for cuttings. What I have found best for this purpose is the wood in that stage which may simply be termed three parts matured, and consisting of two inches of the points of shoots that have no flower buds on them.

The preparation of the cuttings. Some cultivators prefer slipping off the parts intended for cuttings with what is professionally termed a heel; but on this point I am not particular, because I find cuttings that have no heel strike root with facility, while those with the heel do not always emit roots at the extreme base. In some instances, I have noticed this at the time of potting off, whatever the plants may have done subsequently.

The material into which the cuttings are inserted. The pot I deem best suited to sustain a uniform temperature and state of moisture in the material forming its contents is the four-and-a-half-inch, over the bottom perforation of which is placed a flat tile, then an inch of rough crocks, succeeded by half an inch of finer crocks, half an inch of rough sandy peat, an inch of equal parts of rotten peat and silver sand, and finished with an inch of clean silver sand. Give a slight watering, just enough to moisten the whole contents of the pot, and settle the sand and make it firm for the cuttings. When dry, or rather when firm, the cuttings are inserted round the edge of the pot, half an inch deep, and about an inch between each, and subjected to

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a slight watering, from a fine rose, to settle the sand closely round them.

The place and its temperature into which the cuttings are to be put. For convenience, I have used a one-light frame, which I generally employ as a seed box for early Cucumbers and Melons; but for Azaleas, &c., in summer, I reverse its position, that is, I turn the front and give it a rather sharp inclination towards the north, which prevents the necessity for shading, and thus does away with a great amount of trouble, besides being a great advantage to the cuttings. Underneath the frame is placed a sufficient quantity of fermenting material—leaves and stable dung—to afford a gentle bottom heat. The pots containing the cuttings, are plunged to the brim in light leafy material, inside the frame, and about six inches from the glass. The frame is kept rather close, but the superabundant moisture is allowed to escape, by taking off the light for an hour or two, in the evening, if the weather is favourable. Occasional sprinklings with the syringe are necessary, but care must be taken not to endanger the health of the cuttings by too much moisture.

[To be continued.]

GEORGE TAYLOR.

*Danson, Kent,*

## Cultivation of the Pine Apple.

[Continued from page 60.]

I AM persuaded that every experienced Pine grower will agree with me, when I say that in order to have large fruit, we must have strong plants. I may further state, that in accordance with my experience, the size of the fruit, if there be healthy root action, will be somewhat proportionate to the size of the plant. This is in unison with the fact that the sucker and fruit is perfected in less time on the old

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plant than on its own roots. Indeed, how could it be otherwise? When the sucker is detached from the plant it is reduced to a cutting, and frequently has not even an embryo root perceptible, and as there can be little development of the leaves of the Pine, without roots, the delay is necessarily considerable. Whereas, by allowing it to remain on the old plant, with its already developed leaves, it is provided with what one of our best gardeners, Mr. Errington, terms a store-house of elaborated matter; and I may add, although the old plant may sometimes appear slightly exhausted, yet, the result of a short relaxation, and the chemical agency of a little fresh compost, placed round the stem, will soon be observable in the rapid growth of the young sucker. No doubt the affinity between the leaves and the roots is reciprocal. Although the development of the former is solely dependant on the absorption of the roots, their healthy action will almost immediately cease, if the functions of the leaves are materially deteriorated.

The Pine Apple is undoubtedly, to a certain extent, a succulent plant. It will retain its accretive matter unimpaired, without roots, for a considerable length of time. This will be admitted by all who have paid any attention to its habit. The roots of the Pine bear probably a less proportion to the extent of the leaves than those of any other plant I am acquainted with, and hence it is, that it accumulates its accretive stores, in its native clime, in the dark or moist season, when the leaves do not suffer from excessive evaporation. We need not apprehend a failure in obtaining fine fruit, if we once procure well developed plants, and preserve them in health, by maintaining a sweet, humid, and otherwise suitable atmosphere, for it is not difficult to prove that as much depends on the leaves as the roots, in the swelling of the fruit. This will explain why a plant with two suckers will frequently double the weight of fruit, for certainly there can be no other reason assigned than the greater number of leaves, and consequently more organs of absorption and secretion.

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Let no one, however, imagine that the Pine can be grown to perfection without a due amount of bottom as well as atmospheric heat, and probably we cannot do better than imitate nature in this point. Mr. Speed, in his *Indian Hand Book of Gardening* (page 183), states that the Pine Apple is cultivated to great perfection in the vicinity of Calcutta. Although, he proceeds, Pines may be grown nearly all the year, yet their period of greatest perfection is from April to September, when the maximum temperature is above ninety-one degrees, and the average minimum more than seventy-nine. This may be termed their ripening period, and the temperature, during the growing season, ranges from fifty-seven to seventy-one degrees. I may add, the Pine Apple has to endure a higher degree of heat in other places. In Bengal, in summer, the heat varies from ninety-eight to one hundred and thirty degrees. In Jamaica, during the hot season, the thermometer ranges from seventy-five to ninety degrees, in the shade, and in the coldest season, from seventy to seventy-five. I am informed that in countries between the tropics, there is nearly a uniform temperature of eighty degrees. We ought to bear in mind, however, that in Britain the light is much diminished, compared with countries near the tropics, consequently a somewhat lower temperature ought to be aimed at.

[To be continued.]

JOSEPH HAMILTON.

*Botcherby.*

## Correspondence on Roses.

LOOKING over the Notes and Queries, in the February number of the *Midland Florist*, I again see room for criticism on the subject of Roses. Not that I am influenced to write for the sake of criticising; but I trust that my remarks will be accepted in the same friendly spirit in which they are



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offered, for I have no other motive than a desire to impart information, and to prevent the uninitiated in such matters falling into error. No doubt, others who contribute to the pages of the *Midland Florist* are influenced by the same desire to convey useful or interesting information, and great praise is due to those who are always ready and willing to answer questions asked; and, no doubt, when an error does occur, it is from want of better experience in the subject treated of, for no one, I think, would knowingly mislead others in such matters.

Now, with all due deference and respect to Mr. H. Davies, I must beg leave to differ with him, as regards the treatment of the Rose Gloire de Dijon. He advises J. W., if his plants are grown in pots, to prune them to *two eyes*, on the young wood, after they have done blooming, in May. Now, if J. B.'s plants are grown in a poor miserable way, and have made only short weak shoots, such advice may be proper enough; but Gloire de Dijon is *naturally* a strong and rapid grower, and *if well grown*, will make shoots from two to four feet in length, even in pots, and strong in proportion; and if *those shoots* are cut to two eyes, and the plants fed with manure water, as advised by Mr. Davies, *strong* shoots will be again produced, *but very few flowers*. There may, or may not be a few flowers on the tip of each shoot, and no more. But if, instead of being cut to two eyes, some of the shoots are taken *clean out*, and the others cut to half-a-dozen or more eyes, according to the strength of each, then, instead of a few strong shoots and few flowers, the plants will produce at least three times the quantity of young shoots, of more moderate growth, and every one of those shoots will be crowned with flowers. Of course, manure water will be of great service to plants so treated, because the shoots, being more numerous, will not be so strong, and the flowers will be larger and finer for such support. Then again, Mr. D. says, if the plants are planted out, the *only* way will be to prune them so late as the middle of May! Why, if

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the weather is any thing like favourable, they will be *in bloom*, or nearly so, *by that time*, and surely no one would be so insane as to cut them *very close* then, and so destroy the first bloom of the season, and also prevent a more abundant bloom in the autumn? I had many plants of Gloire de Dijon in the open ground, last season, which, without any manure, produced shoots from four to six and seven feet long, and, although they produced very few flowers *in summer*, owing to the strong growth, yet, towards autumn, they were literally covered with flowers, without any pruning, and continued so till the middle of December, when the frost put a stop to more buds opening. These plants were the produce of buds *on the Manetti stock*, which were dormant the previous winter. After they had finished the first growth, nearly all the eyes on those strong shoots burst forth, and produced flowers, some of them not more than two or three inches from the stem, and so they continued to bloom, as above stated; and certainly *no Rose is more sweet and beautiful*, and wherever Roses are grown, *this ought to be one of them*. While writing of this Rose, I may just observe, that *it is perfectly hardy*, even so far north as here; for in the winter of 1856 I had many Bourbon and Hybrid Perpetual Roses completely killed by frost, while plants of Gloire de Dijon, standing in the midst of them, remained *quite uninjured*. This is very different to Mr. Davies's statement, at page 80, where he says that it requires a sheltered situation, or protection, in winter, and that the *Noisettes* are mostly *hardy*. Now I hardly know of one Noisette any thing near so hardy as Gloire de Dijon, as the last few hard winters must have sufficiently proved to any observer. In the winter of 1854 and 5, very few Noisettes escaped, except on their own roots, and those were killed down to within the snow.

That some Roses will do best when worked, and others best on their own roots, I fully admit, but I cannot agree with Mr. Davies, that Geant des Batailles does not flower *half* so free on its own roots as

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when worked. He admits that it *grows fast enough* on its own roots, and it must be well known to every Rose grower, that *all free-flowering* Hybrid Perpetual Roses, with the *habit* of the Geant, must flower well, *if they grow well;* for every young shoot is crowned with flowers, and if they don't continue to grow, of course they don't continue to bloom. There are, however, many *strong-growing kinds,* in this class, which, if too much encouraged, and too close pruned, would produce strong shoots, without flowers. Now, in reference to Rose stocks, I think, and the *majority* of Rose growers will think with me, that it is very inconsistent of Mr. D. to condemn the Manetti, merely because *he* does not succeed with it. I have had *ten years experience* in growing it, and was one of the first to bring it prominently before the public, as the *Gardeners' Chronicle* and the *Gardeners' and Farmers' Journal* will prove, and I have seen *no cause yet to alter* the first favourable opinion I formed of it; but, of course, I have, in that time, gained some knowledge in the management of it. And *many* other parties have, from time to time, written in praise of it, in the various periodicals. I am willing, however, to admit that it does not do *equally well in all places:* but whether it is the soil, situation, or bad management, I am unable to say. I know, too, that there are a few particular kinds of Roses that do not thrive upon it, and, of course, I do not *now* work those sorts upon it. These are some of the Noisettes, and a *few* of the Teas with much of the Noisette character in them, and three or four Hybrid Perpetuals; but, with those few exceptions, there is no other stock within my knowledge to compete with it, for dwarf Roses. It will not make *suitable* stocks for standards. I have never noticed Roses upon this stock to dwindle and die off, as Mr. D. and some other parties assert, and I have plants *now* upon this stock, several years old, with heads four feet across, and with the stocks as thick as my wrist. These, of course, are strong-growing kinds, but the more moderate growers are strong *in proportion.* Then, as regards

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Roses on their own roots. The loss of so many on their own roots, sustained by Mr. Davis, in a certain winter, which was probably a very severe one, is no proof that they *would not* have shared the same fate on Briers, or that the Brier is better than the Manetti, because he saved them upon Briers, in the same ground, the following winter; for it is indisputable that Hybrid Perpetual Roses on their own roots, with ordinary management, ought not to have been lost as described by Mr. D., even in a severe winter. Were they planted *early in autumn?* or were they planted in mid winter, and left without a mulching? or how? I have a bed of Hybrid Perpetual Roses, on their own roots, which have stood *all* the late hard winters, without any protection, and they are still healthy and strong, and I do not recollect any of them dying, or being killed, either the first season of planting, or since.

THOMAS APPLEBY.

*Rose Mount Nursery, York.*

## The Annual-flowering Antirrhinum.

THE treatment of this plant is as simple as the most ordinary annual, but still it is a worthy object for the decoration of the parterre or flower garden, of whatever extent or dimension. It is a species of flower that will flourish better and stand longer in a poor soil than in a rich one. As a proof of this, I may mention an instance I have observed of a stray seedling sowing itself in one of the seams of a brick wall, where it has bloomed several years, and now looks very healthy, a decided proof that it will prosper under very indifferent treatment; and I question if it will not be more likely to resist the disease now so prevalent among the named varieties of this tribe, which, like a great many more of our esteemed favourites, that I could name, have been stimulated,

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over-propagated, and grown beyond their natural functions. These extremes, whether in animal or vegetable life, we all know, will, if persisted in, engender disease in some shape or other, a consummation which I think ought not to be lost sight off.

As the Antirrhinum seeds freely, a packet of seed can be purchased for a mere trifle. However, I would not advise buying at the cheapest market, but get seed of good character, saved from choice varieties, of all colours, and I have no doubt that any who adopts the simple plan I prescribe, will be amply repaid by a most beautiful and lasting display.

I sow the seed about the middle of March, and plunge the box into a slight hotbed. I generally use flat wooden boxes, not less than four inches deep. Place an inch and a half of lime rubbish at the bottom, for drainage, put the riddlings of leaf mould on the top of the lime rubbish, and fill up with a light sandy soil, composed of one part light loam, one part leaf mould, and two parts pit or river sand. Sow the seed on the top of this, and cover it with a mixture of one part leaf mould and three parts sand, riddled fine for the purpose, that it may lie close and prevent too rapid evaporation, and thus avoid the necessity of frequent waterings, which would prove destructive to the vitality of the seed. I generally lay a few twiggy branches over the surface of the glass, and keep the bed closed till most of the plants begin to make their appearance. Then give air, gradually increasing it daily, and as the plants get stronger, gradually remove the shading from the glass. I should have mentioned before that when the surface soil of the boxes gets dry, be sure to water with a very small-rosed watering pan, and be careful not to run the soil. I generally place a bit of slate, wood, or broken pot on the surface of the box, take a small flower pot, stop the hole with my finger, and fill it with tepid water, that has been kept in the hotbed twenty-four hours; I then loosen my finger a little, and allow the water to trickle down on to the bit of slate, till the surface of the soil is deluged. One good

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watering is preferable to frequent dribbles. When the plants are two or three inches high, gradually inure them to the open air; then put them in a cold frame, or any place where they will be safe from frost, and allow them to remain till they are well hardened and fit for transplanting. If the above directions are attended to, with reasonable forethought, they will suffer very little by transplanting, as nothing is more hardy. They will suit well for a bed, in the flower garden, and nothing does better for a back row, in the riband style, or for groups in the promiscuous flower border or shrubbery; and by a little attention to cutting off the first flower stems, to keep them from seeding, they will flower splendidly till hard frost sets in, when they may be cut down, and retained another season, if thought well.

WILLIAM MELVILLE.

*Dalmeny Park Gardens.*

## The Black Barbarossa Grape.

WITH permission, I will make a few remarks on this Grape. My reason for so doing is, several are condemning it. They say it is a shy bearer, a loose setter, gross grower, &c. Has it had a fair trial? It is a strong grower, I know; that is, if planted in the ordinary rich Vine border. Then the question arises, is that the proper place? This being an imported variety, as I understand, but I have not heard from whence, would it not be worth inquiring what its natural soil is, as is the case with exotic flowering plants? If so, I expect we should not find it of such a rich plethoric nature as that which Vines generally have to grow in here. I think, if a soil of a different character were tried for this Grape, the result would be different. Such as any of the following:—Turf cut from road sides, parings from the edges of gravel walks, mixed plentifully with the after-men-

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tioned, either or all of them. Mortar and brick rubbish from old buildings, road scrapings, sand, chalk, bones, &c. If all these are out of reach, a gravel walk would not be a bad substitute, where near enough. I once planted a Black Hamborough Grape in a gravel walk, at the end of a vinery, and carried it through the wall into the inside, and it grew and fruited as well as those on the border. As a case in point, I may mention a border I saw the other day, at Batsford Park. It was a gravel walk, four feet wide, between the succession and fruiting Pine pits. The Grapes (Muscats) were planted against the front wall of the fruiting house, and introduced when the Pine Apples had set their fruit. Mr. Easton, the intelligent gardener, informed me that the Grapes were remarkably fine, of which I was convinced, from the round prominent buds and short-jointed moderate-sized wood.

I think it a pity to condemn a fine Grape, without a little patience and a fair trial, as I have, found this Grape, when well grown, superior to every other late black Grape known.

M. BUSBY, F.H.S.

## Mushroom Growing.

IT may be interesting to some of your readers, who would like to grow Mushrooms, if they could, by a simple method, see a reasonable chance of success. I am a decided amateur, with but little time of my own, being in business from eight a.m. to eight p.m., and never, before I made my own, saw a Mushroom bed formed; but having been very successful at the first trial, I mean, if permitted, to try again, next autumn. The following simple plan is the one I adopted, as recommended by a gentleman's gardener, who is a famous grower, and does not know what it is to fail in growing them first-rate.

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I obtained about ten barrowloads of road manure, or horse droppings, and spread it out *thinly*, under an open shed, and turned it every day, for twelve days, to get it well dried. About twenty-four hours before I formed the bed, I made it into a heap, for the purpose of getting a little heat into it.

In the meantime, I made the bedstead, if I may so call it, in a dark cellar, by laying boards upon bricks, to keep the bed off the cold ground, or floor, the wall forming the back and the two ends. I placed a plank in the front, ten inches deep, made firm, so that it could not fall. The manure being ready, I laid in the first covering, about four inches deep, trod it well down and beat it with a brick. I left two boys treading it, while I got down the remainder of the manure, and as fast as I put it on, they trod and hammered it down. When I had got the last layer on, I jumped on the bed for about half an hour. It was then about eight inches deep, and as hard as possible. *It could not be too hard.* I then made holes with the dibble, or setting stick, about seven inches apart, all over the bed, where I intended to put in the spawn. I placed my glass in one of the holes. It stood at fifty-two degrees, by the next day it was eighty, and soon got up to a hundred and forty. Then it gradually cooled, and when it went down to seventy, I spawned it, first throwing about a quart of turf loam over the bed, like broad casting, so that part fell into the holes. The spawn I put in about the size of a walnut into each hole, and beat it in with the handle of the dibble. In about two or three days after, I think on the third, I covered it about an inch deep with good loam.

I made the bed six feet by three, on the eve of the "fast day," I spawned it on the 16th of October, I had Mushrooms on the 23rd November, and have gathered, up to this date (Jan. 6), forty-six, and have yet my bed covered completely over. I keep the air moist by keeping up a supply of fresh manure, in the vicinity of the bed, which I turn over every day, and add to it occasionally, as the heat gets out of it. In the absence



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of manure, my friend tells me a pan of cold water, stirred up with a red-hot iron, will give a soft damp air, that Mushrooms like.

By this plan, I have plenty of manure for my garden and pots, in April and May, so that in fact my extra expense for the bed, is only the price of the spawn.

A. F. A.

## Our Miscellany.

NATIONAL TULIP SHOW.—Letters from north country Tulip growers express their disappointment at the time for holding the Royal National Tulip Exhibition being set so early. They have the idea that it is all in favour of the southern growers. In fixing a day for a national exhibition, great difficulty is experienced, as there is a week, ten days, and sometimes a fortnight difference in the time of blooming between north and south, and much depends on the weather. Other letters complain of the banishment of the old system of class showing.

A correspondent writes,—"An idea has suggested itself to my mind, that there should be held county Gooseberry shows, irrespective of the merits of the various growers, and the great advantage of this plan would be, *first*, to do away with making up shows at a few days notice; and, *secondly*, to bring together the growers of the county at least once in the year, to talk over the merits of seedlings recently let out, and also those coming out in the various localities. With regard to the first advantage, there are many growers in North Staffordshire who complain of being prohibited from exhibiting their productions, at several of the shows, on account of the situation, &c., of their gardens being too good for the generality of growers to compete with. This has given rise to the *making up* of shows, in oppo-

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sition to established ones, at a few days notice, and has had a great tendency to destroy that unanimity of feeling which it is so desirable should exist. One of the principal objects aimed at is to do away with this, and with blackballing, as it is here termed, the members being admitted by ballot, so that neither situation nor capabilities should be any obstacle to a grower's fruit being made known to the Gooseberry growing community at large. The exhibitions, when established, should be moveable, in order to afford the same facilities to one part of the county as the other. With regard to the second point, the promoters anticipated great advantages from concentrating themselves into a general body, for the county; and perhaps other counties may see the utility of assisting in the carrying out of this object, and then, at some period, these efforts may merge into a NATIONAL SHOW FOR GOOSEBERRIES, the same as Tulips. The Gooseberry growers are far more numerous than the cultivators of any other fruit." We are requested to state that further information may be had by enclosing a stamped envelope, to the secretary, at the Old Boat and Horse inn, Newcastle-under-Lyme.

The prospects of the crops of fruit, from accounts received from various parts of the country, are most encouraging. The long dry time has, in the midlands, been succeeded by rain, accompanied with sharp frosts, at night.

The Gooseberry, though a common fruit, is one of great value. The prize sorts are very fine, but, in flavour, not to be compared with some of the older varieties, such as the old Warrington, &c. This is a a very valuable sort, and deserves especial notice for its good qualities. I have trees against walls, with branches seven yards long, bearing fine crops, and the fruit hanging on the trees till November. Where there are no walls, they may be grown as espaliers, in regular rows across the garden, at distances of seven or eight feet, so as to allow for a row of vegetables between.

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A very nice way is to form an arch, with laths or wire, six or seven feet high, over a path, so that you may walk underneath and gather the fruit. If the amateur wish to grow Cherries, or any other fruit in the same way, by placing a light framework just above the trees, and covering with the hexagon net, at a trifling expense, the fruit would be preserved from birds, wasps, flies, &c., and the fruit season considerably prolonged. The following varieties of Cherries are well adapted for the purpose:—Archduke, Morrello, Carnation, Coe's Late, Mayduke.

## Calendar of Operations.

ACHIMENES.—Those whose inclination leads them to cultivate this beautiful flower, should now make a start for August and September bloom, if they have not already done so. They will start freely in bottom heat, such as the Cucumber or Melon frames, if there is not too much steam, for if kept too damp, they will decay. A dry bottom heat is the best. The following six may be depended on as being good and free bloomers, and will be found suitable for the conservatory or the exhibition. Ambroise Verschaffelt, fine white, with petals streaked from the centre with crimson. Beckmanii cœrulea, violet purple. Longiflora major, blue, very large, and good. Sir Treherne Thomas, beautiful rosy carmine, the finest of its class. Margaretta, fine pure white. Tydea gigantea, resembling Picta, but twice as large in growth; very free, and keeps in flower a long time.—JAMES HOLLAND. *gardener to R. W. Peake, Esq., Spring Grove, Hounslow.*

AZALEAS.—Young plants that have been repotted should now be forced into vigorous growth. Those which have done blooming should be repotted, and placed in a brisk growing temperature, with plenty of air and moisture. As the plants progress in growth, stop any gross shoots, to make them strong and bushy. Give a little clarified liquid manure, or guano water, twice a week, when they are in full growth. Syringe them freely twice or thrice a day, and shade from the mid-day sun.—EDWARD CLEETON, *gardener to E. Holland, Esq., M.P., Dumbleton.*

CARNATIONS AND PICOTEES.—The early part of last month was particularly severe, and prevented planting out, but the

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latter portion was very fine, and, no doubt, advantage would be taken to pot out. If, unfortunately, you were not able to finish, do so without delay. Seed should now be sown in a gentle heat, and then hardened off. Should any of your plants be long and, rather spindly, get a few hooks, same as you use for layering, and place them so that the plants shall sustain no injury from any winds that may arise. If the month should be dry, water, but sparingly, and take care that it does not fall upon the foliage.—JOHN SLATER, *Cheetham Hill.*

CHRYSANTHEMUMS.—Since my last notice, the weather has been what I fully expected, frost, snow, and cold easterly winds, which has destroyed some hundreds of the tender varieties that were not properly protected with a slight covering, in the open borders. My plants, up to the commencement of the frost, never looked so good and healthy. They are now cut down to the ground. The tender Pompones are half dead. All this shows the necessity of giving proper protection in winter, as, after all, they are only half hardy plants. With regard to your border plants, care should now be taken to plant out those that are hardy looking, with strong foliage and short joints. Those that are a weak and delicate green, should be kept sheltered a week or two longer; and do not disturb the late varieties, that are just throwing up suckers above the surface. Before disturbing these, let them get two inches high. Do not over water those you plant out. Have the surface round the plant fine, to prevent the cold winds getting to the roots. We are sure to have more bad weather yet. Recollect it is only April. Look sharp after your specimen plants, in pots. Some of the Pompones will want stopping, and require a shift into a larger pot. They will now bear some watering daily. The large ones will require plenty of air and sun, and may be left without any covering all night, if not frosty, to get them hardy, for putting out in May.—SAMUEL BROOME, F.H.S.

CHRYSANTHEMUMS (POMPONES).—If potting on and stopping, as recommended last month have not been attended to, no time should now be lost. From the shoots of those that have been stopped and have broken freely, a selection will soon have to be made, to start the plant fairly. Of short growers, seven shoots will be sufficient, and of long growers, five, the breaks to have at least three clear inches from the bottom to the top of the pot, and the remainder to be taken clean out, which will prevent confusion during their growth. Give air freely, and tilting from cold winds. Should there be any plants of weak growth, or breaking weakly, a few applications of weak liquid manure will be found beneficial, but at the same time avoid sudden excitement. Cuttings started at this time, and grown as dwarf bushes, without pegging or twisting, to bloom in six-inch pots, will be found very useful for the greenhouse or con-



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servatory. The mode of stopping holds good for those struck late, as well as for the specimens.—JAMES HOLLAND, *gardener to R. W. Peake, Esq., Spring Grove, Hounslow.*

CINERARIAS.—This is the month when the Cineraria is in perfection. Intending purchasers should, therefore, visit the different nurseries, and judge for themselves. We may anticipate an excellent display on the 21st, at St. James's Hall, in connection with the Horticultural Society of London. The principal part of the stock will now be in bloom, and should be shaded during part of the day, if the sun is out. This will prolong their beauty, and be the means of bringing up their colours. A little weak liquid manure should be given, in order to preserve the foliage. It is necessary also to fumigate, for, as before stated, the greenfly will, in a short time, spoil the beauty of the flowers. I find nothing so good as *tobacco paper*, and I have heard the same remark from many successful growers of the Cineraria, the tobacco, in many cases, injuring the foliage, and not being more effectual in killing the greenfly. The plants must be constantly and regularly looked over, as they will require abundance of water. Cleanliness and order are essential, that the plants may appear to the best advantage. Regulate and tie out such shoots and flower stems as require it. It will be an interesting month to seedling raisers, and my advice is, save nothing but what is an improvement, in some point, on existing varieties. Seed may be sown.—JOHN DOBSON, *Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth.*

CUCUMBERS.—Examine the heat in the beds frequently, and as it begins to decline, let it be renewed, by the application of fresh linings, or by renewing such as may have been already applied. Air should be freely admitted every day, in a greater or less degree, according to the state of the weather, taking care to shut up the frames early in the afternoon, before they become too cool, and that they may acquire a few degrees of heat, to keep them sufficiently warm during the night. Water should now be applied more liberally, from a fine rose watering pot, and generally in the afternoon, from three to four o'clock; but, in dull cloudy weather, it may be applied in the morning. It will still be necessary to have the chill taken off the water. As the plants extend their roots or runners, fresh soil should be added, and filled up level all over the beds. They should then be closely and regularly pegged down, first moderately thinning them, if they are too thick and crowded. All bruised, damped, or decayed leaves should be carefully removed as they appear, and no weeds should be suffered to grow in the beds. At this season, Cucumber plants are sometimes infested with greenfly, and also that more troublesome enemy, the thrip. If either of these make their appearance, recourse must be had to fumigation. The latter insect is much more difficult to

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destroy than the former, therefore the fumigation will require repeating two or three times, on as many successive days, when, most likely, they will wholly disappear. Redspider seldom attacks the plants, as that insect only exists in a dry warm atmosphere, which is extremely unfavourable to the Cucumber. A mild humid heat is most congenial to its growth, and in that the redspider seldom makes its appearance.—JOHN BURTON, *Oxton.*

DAHLIAS.—All roots not set to work, should have immediate attention. Place them in a gentle bottom heat. If any have commenced growth, plant them out at once, where they are to bloom, covering the crowns two inches deep, to prevent injury from frost. When the young shoots make their appearance above ground, they will require some little protection from frost, at night, by placing flower pots, with the holes stopped, over them; but as these must be removed in the morning, where that is not convenient, a few spruce fir boughs laid over them will be of great service. Continue to take cuttings, where a quantity is required. Place them round the edges of the pots, plunge the pots into bottom heat, and the cuttings will root freely at this season. Pot off singly, into small pots, those cuttings which have taken root; plunge the pots into a little bottom heat, for a few days, then remove them to a cooler situation, but keep them growing, and repot as they require it. Never allow the plants to become stocked for want of room, or they will be of little use in producing specimens for exhibition. Keep them as near the glass as convenient, and give air and water freely, as the plants progress in growth. Keep free from greenfly.—RICHARD EDWARDS, *Nuthall.*

FORCING DEPARTMENT.—*Peach House.*—Regular and gradual attention to thinning the fruit will be imperative, to produce fine, large, well-coloured specimens. The fruit that is left should be as near the base of the shoot as possible. Where borders are inside the house, see that they do not suffer for want of water, and when it is required, give a good soaking. Use the syringe more freely, but not with force to injure the the young tender foliage. Give air early, this fine weather, and lower the fires. Increase the air as the day advances, and close early. Temperature fifty-five to sixty-five degrees, with an advance of five to ten degrees sun heat.—*Early Vinery.*—Where sufficiently advanced, the bunches may now be thinned, leaving one of the best to a shoot. Commence thinning out the berries as soon as possible. I consider attention to this particular point most imperative, as fine well-coloured berries will be the result; but if allowed to remain unthinned till half or three parts grown, the elaborated juices that would have been directed to the permanent berries will be completely lost. Continue to stop the lateral shoots at the first joint, confining those below the bunch to one leaf, but allowing more

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freedom of growth to those near the point of the shoot.——*Vines in Pots.*—Give tepid manure water every other watering, while the berries are swelling, and attend to the bottom heat. Temperature sixty to seventy degrees, with a rise by day of ten degrees, by sun heat. Where Peaches, Figs, or Vines are growing on the back, attend to them with tepid manure water, as directed for Vines in pots.——*Late Vinery.*—Moisten the stems with tepid water, every fine day; and where a quantity of buds break from one spur, begin to thin out the weakest, leaving more to be taken out when the character of the young bunches is discernible.—M. BUSBY, F.H.S.

EPACRISES.—As they go out of flower, continue to cut the shoots back. Repot, in succession, those that have been previously recommended to be headed back, and encourage a free growth. Syringe them freely, and keep a damp atmosphere, thus imitating the rainy season, in their natural localities. Prepare shadings against an emergency. Put in cuttings of any approved kinds. Take the points off the young shoots, just as they begin to break, with a small heel of the older wood; make the heel smooth, and put them in suitable soil, covered with silver sand, and enclosed with a bell-glass; place them in a bed, with a bottom heat of sixty degrees. Attend to shading and watering.—EDWARD CLEETON, *gardener to E. Holland, Esq., M.P.*

FRUIT GARDEN.—As pruning and nailing will have been completed by this time, little can be done, except guarding against frost; but do not shade the trees more than is necessary. Look well after insects.—WILLIAM SHIPLEY, *Westbury, Wilts.*

FUCHSIAS.—The stock will be growing rapidly, and the early-blooming plants will be gaining strength, and should receive their final shift by the beginning of the month. Water must be liberally given, and they must be occasionally syringed over the foliage. As soon as these plants get established in the pots, manure water may be given. Shift also the second lot of plants into six or eight-inch pots, and continue to grow them on. Determine upon the sort of plant you require, and stop them accordingly. By commencing in time, and by careful attention, the Fuchsia may be grown to any required form. Air may be given at favourable opportunities, as soon as the plants have recovered from the shift, but avoid cutting winds. By shading during the hottest part of the day, much of the foliage may be preserved. Careful attention must be given to tying them up, that none suffer from the matting cutting the stem, or from the loss of a shoot through inattention. Cuttings put in to the end of the month will make a succession of bloom up to the end of October. Watch well for the greenfly. Repot any plants that will be benefitted by it.—JOHN DOBSON, *Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth.*

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HEATHERY.—If former directions have been carried out, the chief thing will be to guard them (more especially those newly potted) against strong cold currents of dry air. Be particularly careful in the application of water to the recently repotted specimens, to see that it does not escape by the side, without moistening the old ball. If a pit or frame is at command, where the lights can be put on or off at pleasure, place the young plants in it. Shade from the mid-day sun, when it is hot. Draw the lights off the plants occasionally, for an hour, morning and evening, on warm days. Keep a sharp look out for mildew.—EDWARD CLEETON, *gardener to E. Holland, Esq., M.P.. Dumbleton.*

KITCHEN AND COTTAGE GARDEN.—Continue to sow succession Peas and Beans. Plant the principal crop of Potatoes. Sow the main crop of Carrots. The Altringham and Long Red Surrey are good sorts. Sow Cape and other varieties of Broccoli. Snow's Winter White and the Penzance are excellent sorts for winter cutting, but the first-named is very scarce. To succeed these, Knight's Protecting and Dilcock's Bride are fine sorts; the Purple Sprouting is very useful for cutting in March, and for late cutting, the Old Late White, Elletson's Mammoth, and Chappell's Cream will be found fine; for autumn, the Cape and Walcheren are good. Sow Brussel's Sprouts, Curled Greens or Scotch Kale, Jerusalem Kale, Couve Tronchouda or Portugal Cabbage, and Savoys. Of the latter, the Drumhead is a very large and excellent sort; the Early Ulm is very small, and may be planted much thicker than other varieties; it is of very fine flavour. Continue to sow Cauliflowers, Lettuce, and the different varieties of small salading. Make another sowing of Celery, for late crop. Sow Cucumbers and Vegetable Marrows, for planting out on ridges. Sow Seakale, Salsify, and Scorzenera. Make new Asparagus beds. We have seen very good beds, where the seed has been sown instead of planting the plants. Sow Parsley, Spinach, and Turnips. Of the latter, the Red Top White, Mousetail, and Polly's Nonsuch are good. Give copious supplies of liquid manure to Cauliflowers, Lettuce, Rhubarb, and other strong-growing crops. Towards the latter end of the month, plant a few Dwarf Beans, on a south border. Stir the soil amongst growing crops, and spare no pains in keeping down weeds. Stick Peas as they require it. Sow Red Beet.—WILLIAM SHIPLEY, *Heywood Gardens, Westbury, Wilts.*

PANSIES.—It is pretty well known that the past season proved most unfavourable to the Pansy growers. The loss was considerable, and it has required some little skill to keep in a healthy condition such as were fortunately saved. Those that are alive now will progress daily, and, to encourage them, remove all dead foliage, and stir the surface of the soil of those in pots. Those in beds will have been top-dressed, and may be

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expected to improve. Peg down the shoots of any that may have been loosened by the wind. Give air, night and day, to those in frames. Water occasionally with liquid manure. Plant out seedlings, and sow seed.—JOHN DOBSON, *Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth.*

PELARGONIUMS.—The May plants will be fast throwing up their trusses, and many will be in flower by the end of the month. The shading should be at once put up. This is very necessary, to keep the flowers longer in perfection, and many colours are improved by it. The kind of canvass generally used for this purpose, is about fourpence-halfpenny per yard. It is about a yard wide, and, with care, will last two or three seasons. Previous to the plants coming into bloom, they must be thoroughly cleared of greenfly. This can be done only by smoking two nights successively. After the plants have been fumigated, they should be well washed with a syringe, using soft or rain water for the purpose. Manure water may still be given. Look well to the shoots, and secure any that require it, and endeavour, at the same time, to promote a regular even head. Avoid putting many sticks in among the roots. The June and July plants should be liberally supplied with manure water. Keep clean, and give all the room that can be spared. For a little late bloom, shift a few plants the beginning of the month, and stop back at the latter end.—JOHN DOBSON, *Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth.*

ROSES.—All planting should be finished, and should the weather be dry, do not neglect watering, and, if possible, mulching. Finish pruning early, but, in some measure, be guided by the weather. If mild, and the eyes begin to push, do it at once, but if, like the last two or three seasons, a cold easterly wind prevails, defer it as long as possible.——*Roses in Pots.*—Plants in bloom will require shading, as the hot sun soon spoils them. Those done flowering may be treated the same as directed for young stock. Towards the end of the month, after shifting all that require it, plunge them in a well-prepared and rich border, where they will be sheltered from the mid-day sun, giving a top-dressing of good rotten dung, and watering when dry.—HENRY DAVIES, *Great Stanmore.*

TULIPS.—In the early part of March, we have had severe frost, but, fortunately, Tulips were not sufficiently advanced to be drawn or injured by close covering. However, they must now be exposed at all times, day and night, and have the benefit of warm showers. Protect only from cold and excessive rain and frost, especially after any downfall in the day time. Should April prove a comparatively dry month, a good watering, towards the end, will benefit them, giving it in the evening, and covering closely up until the forenoon of the following day.—T. ALLESTREE, *Draycott, near Derby.*

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# An Hour with the Hollyhock.

SUCH is the title of a most pleasant little work written by Mr. William Paul, of the Cheshunt Nurseries, one of the most successful growers of this favourite of ours. Mr. Paul treats of the culture, history, properties, hybridizing, propagation, and exhibition of the Hollyhock, in a masterly manner, and in such a plain and practical style as to assure the reader that he is fully conversant with the subject. Some treatises are dry and uninteresting, but this will be found both entertaining and instructive. We have read it twice, with great interest, and assure our readers that it is a most pleasant thing to spend "an hour with the Hollyhock." The following lesson is worthy of attention.

"As our remarks are intended for the guidance of the beginner, we will suppose him to have obtained a supply of plants in October or March, and from that period we will trace their culture. First, let us ask, 'Have these plants been raised from grafts, cuttings, or from seed?' Cuttings or seedlings we think preferable, where the correctness of the latter can be guaranteed by the raiser having previously bloomed them; but as some kinds only are reproduced true from seed, it is likely the stock will consist partly of plants raised from cuttings or grafts. One thing is certain, the stock should be renewed every year, either by



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purchasing or propagating. However abundantly old plants may bloom, they will not produce such large handsome spikes of flowers as young ones. Whether obtained in autumn or spring, they should be at once transferred from the small pots in which they have been kept for convenience in removal, to larger ones, using a compost of turfy loam, sand, and decomposed manure, placing them in a cold pit, until they may be safely planted in the open ground, in May. * * * But, while paying proper attention to young plants, from which we expect the finest blooms, we must not forget to administer to the wants of those which have gladdened us with their blossoms during the preceding year. The ground, especially if there have been many visiters, will be trodden firm, and should be well broken up with a fork, early in March. A good dressing of manure should be worked in, during this operation. The Hollyhock is not a flower that will long lie dormant beneath the influence of the sunny days of spring. Soon the flower stems begin to rise, and often so numerous that it is desirable to remove some. This should be done as soon as they are sufficiently formed to enable one to judge which will be the strongest. Allow no plant to develope more than three spikes, some two only, and a weak plant one. In all cases where growing for exhibition a single spike is sufficient: the object then is to obtain as fine a development as possible; but when growing to produce effect in the garden, the object is more thoroughly obtained by the dwarfer growth and greater body of colour produced by three or more spikes. To those lovers of flowers who object to the Hollyhock on account of the height to which the flower stem rises, we would suggest a remedy. Instead of one, two, or three spikes, encourage four, five, or even six, to rise, and when they have reached an approved height, cut their tops off, and the habit of the plant will be entirely altered. If one spike is fixed in the centre, and left taller than those which surround it, the effect is highly pleasing. Beyond this, there are many varieties naturally of a

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dwarf and bushy habit. Most of the leading modern kinds commence the formation of flower buds at about two feet from the ground. If the situation be at all exposed, the spikes must be tied to stakes, at an early period: the first tie may be advantageously made at the height of about fifteen inches. At this period of growth, the wood of the stem is soft, and the tie should be made with a broad band of bast, not twisted, and so made that it will slip up the stake as the stem rises. As the stem cannot be drawn close to the stake, without injuring the flowers, two stakes will be necessary where one stem only rises from a plant. The stakes should be placed opposite, and the stem brought between them, so that the three objects form a straight line: pass the bast round the stem of the plant, drawing it to the one stake, and perform the same operation a few inches higher up, tying in the opposite direction; and so on, tying to each stake alternately, as the stem rises. When two or three stems rise from one plant, three stakes will be necessary, and they should be placed triangularly, tying as before."

## Hints to the Judges at Tulip Shows.

BY G. GLENNY, AUTHOR OF "THE PROPERTIES OF FLOWERS."

THE Tulip is a treacherous flower. The very bulb that gave us a magnificent bloom last year, may this year become foul, and we may in vain look for the cause. We may fancy all manner of things, but all we know is that it was fine and is now foul. One season, the marks in a flower may be *perfection*, the next, they may be *confusion;* and we may observe here, that however confused they may be, the base of the specimen may be pure and the marking anything but uniform. This being the case, and it being almost a miracle to be able to produce a stand of flowers moderately perfect, we can only look to a

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standard, and award the prize to those which come nearest to the required model. Then, what is the model? Before we wrote the *Properties of Flowers*, in 1832, the "fancy" had some very splendid lessons on what constituted a good Tulip. Without quoting all the tomfoolery of every Quixote who was going to set the floral world to rights, we shall quote Mr. Loudon's "criterion" of a good flower. He says, in his *Encyclopedia*,

"The stem should be strong, elastic, and neat, and about thirty inches above the bed. The flower should be large and composed of six petals. These should proceed a little horizontally at first, and then turn upwards, forming *almost a perfect cup*, with a round bottom, rather widest at top." If any of our readers can form an idea of the shape here intended we should be glad to have it. An ordinary bucket or house pail, or an old-fashioned tumbler, is the nearest shape we can find, for these "proceed horizontally at first, and then turn upwards." How it can form almost a perfect cup we do not know. At all events, a Tulip of that shape would be abominable. Nevertheless, it was the only criterion Mr. Loudon could find.

We wrote the "Properties of the Tulip," for the Metropolitan Society, in 1832, and were opposed by the leaders of the old cocked hat school. The dealers saw that if we prevailed, half their stocks would be rejected. Nevertheless, we carried our point, with the help of the independent amateurs, and our dogmas became florists' law. It is true that stained bottoms held their places in some counties, for a considerable time; but we were called in as judge at one place after another, and disqualified stand after stand, and flower after flower, according to the rules we laid down, namely,

1. The cup should form, when expanded, from half to a third of a hollow ball. To do this, the petals should be six in number, broad at the ends, smooth at the edges, and the divisions between the petals scarcely to show an indentation.

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2. The three inner petals should set closely to the three outer ones, and the whole should be broad enough to allow of the fullest expansion, without quartering, as it is called; that is, exhibiting a vacancy between the petals.

3. The petals should be thick, smooth, and stiff, and keep their form well.

4. The ground should be clear and distinct, whether white or yellow. The least stain, even at the lower end of the petal, would render a Tulip nearly valueless.

5. Describes roses, byblœmens, and bizarres.

6. Whatever be the disposition of colours or marks upon a Tulip, all the six petals should be marked alike, and be, therefore, perfectly uniform.

7. The feathered flowers should have an even close feathering all round; and, whether narrow or wide, light or heavy, should reach far enough round the petals to form, when they are expanded, an unbroken edging all round the flower.

8. If the flower have any marking besides the feathering at the edge, it should be a beam, or bold mark down the centre, but not to reach the bottom, or near the bottom of the cup. The mark or beam must be similar in all the six petals.

9. Flowers not feathered, and with flame only, must have no marks on the edges of the flower. None of the colour must break through to the edge. The colour may be disposed in any form, so that it be perfectly uniform in all the petals, and does not go too near to the bottom.

10. The colour, whatever it be, must be dense and decided. Whether it be delicate and light, or bright, or dark, it must be distinct in the outline, and not shaded, nor flushed, nor broken.

11. The height should be eighteen to thirty-six inches. The former is right for the outside row of a bed, and the latter is right for the highest row.

12. The purity of the white and the brightness of the yellow should be permanent; that is to say, should stand until the petals actually fall.



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Upon these main points all good sound florists now agree. There was for a considerable time, a great reluctance in the north, to consider the purity of the base of so much consequence as the marking, and certain it is, that some of the foul-bottomed flowers are magnificently feathered and flamed. Many of the qualities of the Tulip are judged by comparison, but there are some absolute disqualifications, as much so as a run petal in a Pink or Carnation. For instance, 1, a stained bottom, however slight; 2, more or less than six petals; 3, a split petal; 4, a petal with the green in it. Any one of these blemishes ought to shut out a stand from competition altogether. The marking, the form, the size, the freshness, the colour, are all subjects for comparison. A pointed petal, an ill-formed cup, a thin petal, the marking too low down, so as not to leave a fine round base of pure white or yellow, all breaks in the feathering, staleness, under-bloomed or over-bloomed, are all blemishes, but not disqualifications. In stands, it is usual to define what classes are shown. It is stipulated generally that all one class, or an equal number of each shall be shown. Any departure from this is a positive disqualification, and sometimes a difficulty arises about whether a flower is a rose or a byblœmen, for many roses—so called—change to purple, when they have been out a few days. We would remind censors that they are to judge flowers as they are, irrespective of their names. The Metropolitan Society, instead of requiring so many *distinct varieties*, would have so many *dissimilar blooms;* therefore, when, as is often the case with Tulips, two distinct varieties were so similar that the judges would be puzzled, they turned out the stand, for having two *too nearly alike*. On the other hand, two of the same flowers were sometimes so different, that although the censors knew it, they allowed them to compete and win. We have seen a young bloom of Rosa Blanca a bright rose, and an old one a rich purple, both in the same stand—one shown as a rose, the other as a byblœmen, and wilfully passed as such by the judges—the name

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being affixed, "Rosa Blanca rose" and "Rosa Blanca byblœmen." There was a good deal of discussion about the propriety of the plan, and it was, after mature consideration, adopted, because many squabbles had been witnessed about the names of Tulips, even in beds, some of the oldest and best florists differing in opinion. Mr. Strong, in showing for the Queen's plate, put two roses so much alike in his stand, that the judges, who were old florists too, considered both the same, and we were called in, as secretary, to see them, before the award was made. We answered by telling them they had no business to trouble themselves about the matter; the rule was that the blooms should be dissimilar, and if they were so like as to puzzle them, they had no business to inquire what they were. The stand was consequently disqualified. Of course, Mr. Strong did not like it, and told the names, but they were not the less alike for that. It was held that if real judges of what a flower should be were totally ignorant of names, it was no consequence whatever, all they had to do was to see the rules complied with and the flowers *dissimilar*, and then give it to the best. This rule did away with all the trouble that amateurs experienced when they had perhaps the same Tulip under half-a-dozen different names. All they had to do was to put up their blooms unlike each other.

One of the mistakes judges are very apt to make, is to give a sort of preference to scarce or dear varieties. If Pompe Funebre were shown against "*Sir Pass Cat*," as it is called, the one then a six or eight guinea flower, and the other a shilling, they would give it to Pompe, whereas a well-grown *Sir Pass Cat* beats Pompe and many other bizarres in form and marking, although *Pompe* has a point in colour. We have frequently had great difficulty in persuading our brother censors that they must leave price out of the question, and judge things as they see them, by the rules laid down.

Upon these principles we hope to see the judges decide at the great Tulip show. But it is a pity the managers of shows do not, in every schedule, inform

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the showers that the productions will be judged according to the standard laid down in the *Properties of Flowers and Plants*, and give their censors positive instructions on that point. It would enable exhibiters to calculate on what they should do. At present, few know what to do. If they put up small flowers, they find the prizes awarded to large ones. If they put up large ones, "because they won last time," they find other judges, with better taste, have given the prizes to smaller ones. Exhibiters ought to be assured that quality, and not size only, should prevail; for size is almost always associated with coarseness, and it is a vulgar taste that gives it the preference. Let those who are called on to judge at Sheffield place the flowers according to their near approach to the standard laid down, for nobody of any weight objects to it. One scientific party made a discovery that, according to the physiology of the Tulip, we were wrong in wanting the top to be level, and hardly to show where the petals joined, and urged that they ought to be this, that, and the other, as if we cared for anything but what we wanted. We only required *that* form and *those* points which, *if they could be obtained*, would be perfection in the eyes of everybody, and we maintain that those which approach nearest to our ideal model, which perhaps never may be reached, will be the best. Our models for the Pansy, the Cineraria, Verbena, Fuchsia, Petunia, Dahlia—in short, all subjects were quite as extravagant, in the then state of the flower, as that for the Tulip, but many of them are coming very close, and be it remembered, that we have TULIPS ALREADY far removed from the lop-eared, long-petalled, flimsy, dirty varieties that once took prizes, and the new ones have only been appreciated in proportion to their approach to the form of one-third to one-half a hollow ball. The flower, in fact, which approaches nearest to half a hollow ball, when fairly opened, spreads to a third of a larger one, when it expands, on warm days, and a Tulip is perfect in all the grades from the one to the other.

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# Ripening Seed for Double Flowers.

ONE great cause of ill success in attempting to grow double flowers is commencing the work too late. It has been thought sufficient to begin with the seed, but a great deal is to be done before that. We know how early the buds for the succeeding year's flowers are formed in perennial plants. I have shown this, when speaking of the Auricula, and advised timely care, on that account, for all improvement in perennials is to be attempted at the period of the formation of the buds; and in like manner, doubling of flowers should be undertaken at the time when the flowers from which the seed is to be saved for the new progeny are about to be formed. The foundation is to be laid then, and the work must be perfected by the culture of the plants raised from the seed thus produced. Every gardener knows the advantage of exchanging seed with some friend on whose integrity he can rely. Indeed it is the best way. I will suppose the amateur possessed of such seed, and that he raises his common stock of plants from it, in the usual way. It is no matter of what kind; I am writing of doubling flowers in general, not of any particular species. When the plants raised from these seeds have acquired about a third of their size, promote their free growth by all possible means. This is the period at which the buds of flowers take their final form. Clear away the surface soil between the plants, to the depth of an inch or more, if it can be done without injuring the roots, and replace it with rich and perfectly fresh garden mould, or some of the compost used for the plant; then give a gentle watering, and repeat it daily, in small quantities. Allow only a few flowers upon each plant to ripen, and do not let the roots be exhausted by opening more than are intended to be set for seed. In the common way, the flowers weaken each other, and part of the seed is always bad. As the seed which follows the first flowers is the best, let these alone stand, and take the rest off in the bud.

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Tie the stalks up, and clear the ground to a good distance round the plants, and frequently break it up with the hoe and water it. Gather the seed as soon as ripe, spread the pods on a shelf or table, in an airy situation, and when well dried, separate the seed and dry it again loose. When perfectly dry, tie it up in bags, and carefully preserve it till the season for sowing. If any imperfect seeds appear, pick them out and throw them away.

JOHN THOMPSON.

*St. Lawrence, Jersey.*

## Select Lists of Florists' Flowers.

WE again proceed with our lists, which, this month, embrace Hollyhocks, from Mr. W. Paul, of the Cheshunt Nurseries, and from Mr. Chater, of Saffron Walden, two of the best growers in the kingdom. Pansies, from Mr. Walker, Winton, near Manchester; Mr. Dobson, Woodlands Nurseries, Isleworth; Mr. R. R. Oswald, Adderly Gardens, Birmingham; and L., a northern grower. Pinks, from L. and Mr. R. R. Oswald.

### HOLLYHOCKS.

#### MR. CHATER'S LIST.

TWENTY-FOUR TO PRODUCE EFFECT.

Beauty of Cheshunt (Paul)
Black Prince (Gibbons)
Comet (Chater)
Cerise unique (Chater)
Leonice (Chater)
Lord Jocelyn (Paul)
Lady C. Neville (Chater)
Memnon (Paul)
Mont Blanc (Chater)
Magnum Bonum (Bircham)
Meteor (Chater)
Napoleon (Paul)
Purple Perfection (Chater)
Phillis (Chater)
Rubens (Downie & Laird)
Sceptre d'Or (Chater)
Shrubland Gem (Chater)
Vivid (Chater)
Sultana (Bircham)
Walden Gem (Chater)
White Globe (Paul)
Lizzy (Paul)
Hon. Mrs. H. Ashley (Roake)
Purpurea alba (Chater)

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TWENTY-FOUR BEST SHOW VARIETIES.

Annie (Chater)
Beauty of Walden (Chater)
Canary (Chater)
Empress (Chater)
Hon. Mrs. H. Ashley (Roake)
Joan of Arc (Paul)
Lilac Queen (Chater)
Lizzy (Paul)
Lady Middleton (Chater)
Memnon (Paul)
Miss Ashley (Roake)
Pourpre de Tyre (Bircham)
Purple Perfection (Chater)
Queen of Beauties (Chater)
Queen of Buffs (Chater)
Queen of Whites (Paul)
Queen of Fairies (Bircham)
Saturn (Chater)
Sceptre d'Or (Chater)
Standard (Paul)
Walden Masterpiece (Chater)
Walden Gem (Chater)
Mont Blanc (Chater)
General Windham (Chater)

A FEW UNEQUALLED IN QUALITY AND THEIR RESPECTIVE COLOURS.

Walden Masterpiece (Chater)
Lilac Queen (Chater)
Memnon (Paul)
Queen of Fairies (Bircham)
Annie (Chater)
Beauty of Walden (Chater)
Geant des Batailles (Chater)
Saturn (Chater)
Queen of Buffs (Chater)
Queen of Beauties (Chater)
Hon. Mrs. H. Ashley (Roake)
Mont Blanc (Chater)
Miss Ashley (Roake)
Lady Middleton (Chater)
Princess (Chater)

MR. PAUL'S LIST.

Beauty of Cheshunt (Paul)
Crusader (Paul)
Eldorado (Paul)
Empress (Chater)
Hon. Mrs. Ashley (Roake)
Lady Franklin (Paul)
Lady Tarleton (Paul)
Lady Willoughbyd'Eresby (Paul
Lemonade Improved (Bircham)
Memnon (Paul)
Miss Ashley (Roake)
Mrs. Oakes (Bircham)
Sir Colin Campbell (Paul)
Neptune (Paul)
Omar Pacha (Bircham)
Pink Perfection (Paul)
Primrose Perfection (Paul)
Purple Perfection (Bircham)
Queen of the Buffs (Chater)
Queen of the Whites (Paul)
Queen of the Yellows (Paul)
Village Maid (Paul)
Walden Masterpiece (Chater)
White Globe (Paul)

## PANSIES.

MR. J. DOBSON'S LIST.

SELFS.

Yellow Model (Hooper)
Jeanie (Downie), dark
Royal White (Thomson)

YELLOW GROUNDS.

Alice (Downie)
Alpheus (Dickson)
Cyrus (Dickson)
Duke of Newcastle (Turner)
Emperor (Turner)
Lord John Russell (Turner)
Monarch (Hale)
Rubens (Dickson)
Satisfaction (Turner)

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WHITE GROUNDS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Beauty (Downie) | Miss Nightingale (Dickson) |
| Countess of Roslin (Laing) | Miss Talbot (Dickson) |
| Charles Cowan (M'Nab) | Princess (Dickson) |
| Earl of Mansfield (Dickson) | Queen Victoria (Dickson) |
| Marie (James) | Royal Visit (Dickson) |
| Maria (Dickson) | Sir Colin Campbell |

## MR. R. R. OSWALD'S LIST.

DARK SELFS.

*Gem (Grandison) | J. B. Gough (Downie & Laird)
Dred (Syme & Middlemas)

WHITE SELFS.

*Alba Magna (Thomson) | White Model (Hooper)
Royal White (Thomson)

YELLOW SELFS.

*Yellow Model (Hooper) | Chromentilla (Syme & Middlemas)
Bessie (Hooper)

YELLOW GROUNDS.

| | |
|---|---|
| *William (Read) | General Williams (Schofield) |
| Cyrus (Dickson & Co.) | Prince Albert (Holland) |
| Napoleon (Hooper) | Duchess of Wellington (D. & L.) |

STRAW GROUNDS.

*Colonel Windham (Laing) | Royal Visit (D. & Co.)

WHITE GROUNDS.

| | |
|---|---|
| *Countess of Roslin (Laing) | Beauty (Downie & Laird) |
| Louisa (Read) | Sir E. Lyons (Hooper) |
| Una (Downie & Laird) | Royal Standard (Dickson & Co.) |
| Rebecca (Syme & Middlemas) | |

* First in its class.

## L.'S LIST.

SELFS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Gem (Syme) | Royal White (Thomson) |
| Great Northern (Hooper) | Yellow Model (Hooper) |
| Jeannie (Downie) | Yellow Climax (Paton) |
| Dred (Syme) | Memnon (Turner) |

LIGHT GROUNDS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Abbotsford (Lightbody) | Miss Lightbody (Campbell) |
| Louisa (Read) | Miss White (Sinclair) |
| Miss Talbot (Dickson) | Royal Standard (Dickson) |
| Miss Nightingale (Dickson) | Sir Colin Campbell (Paton) |

YELLOW GROUNDS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Alice (Downie) | Melancthon (Cunningham) |
| Cyrus (Dickson) | Napoleon (Dickson) |
| Colonel Windham (Laing) | Duchess of Wellington (Downie |
| Countess of Roslin (Laing) | William (Read) |

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## MR. J. WALKER'S LIST.

### SELFS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Duke of Bridgewater | Flower of the Day |
| Gem | Jeannie |
| Duke of Sutherland | Mrs. Dodwell, yellow |
| Memnon | Blanche, white |

### YELLOW GROUNDS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Cyrus | John Walton |
| Alice | Beauty of Coleman's |
| Lord Palmerston | Sir T. Cathcart |
| Lord John Russell | Pandora |

### WHITE OR CREAMY GROUNDS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Countess of Roslyn | Miss Walker |
| Miss Jones | Queen Victoria |
| Sir Colin Campbell | Helen (Douglas) |
| Nonpareil | Royal Standard |

# PINKS.

## MR. R. R. OSWALD'S LIST.

### PURPLE-LACED.

| | |
|---|---|
| *ColchesterCardinal(Norman) | Mrs. Stevens (Looker) |
| Peter Young (Turner) | Purity (Maclean) |
| Arnotdale (Lightbody) | Richard Andrews (Turner) |
| Ganymede (Looker) | |

### RED-LACED.

| | |
|---|---|
| *New Criterion (Maclean) | Ruby (Bragg) |
| Fanny (Hardstone) | Sarah (Turner) |
| Elizabeth Gair (Lightbody) | Star (Westbrook) |
| Invincible (Godber) | |

### DARK-LACED.

| | |
|---|---|
| *Huntsman (Jones) | Warrior (Hooper) |
| Nonsuch (Elliott) | James Hogg (Bragg) |

* First in its class.

## L.'S LIST.

| | |
|---|---|
| Alice (Turner) | Juliet (Looker) |
| Brunette (Maclean) | Maritana (Lightbody) |
| Colchester Cardinal (Norman) | Mrs. Norman (Norman) |
| Criterion (Maclean | Mrs. Stevens (Looker) |
| Elizabeth Gair (Lightbody) | New Criterion (Maclean) |
| ElphinstonHerriot(Lightbody) | Richard Andrews (Turner) |
| Ganymede (Looker) | Purple Perfection (Bragg) |
| Hector (Bragg) | Sarah (Turner) |
| James Hogg (Bragg) | Theresa (Marris) |



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# Culture of the Aphelexis.

MOST of the species of this genus are exceedingly handsome greenhouse shrubs, being of compact habit of growth, and profuse bloomers. The flowers, if guarded from damp and hot sunshine, remain long in perfection, in a cool house, and they make fine exhibition specimens, their colours and silvery grey leaves being very attractive in the midst of a collection of plants. They are readily propagated by means of cuttings, three or four inches long, taken off in June, in a ripe state, if such can be obtained. With three or four side branches to the cuttings, take them out down to a joint, with a shoulder or heel to each, and make the heel smooth with a sharp knife. Prepare some four or five-inch pots, drain them well, and over the drainage place a layer of moss, to prevent it being stopped, by the soil being washed amongst it; then fill the pots nearly full of light peat and sharp sand, in equal portions, and on that put half-an-inch of silver sand, press it close, and give a watering, to settle the mass. Let the pots stand for an hour or so, to drain, and then place the cuttings round the edges, pressing them in rather tight. Select a shady place, out of doors, under a north wall, dig a trench, twelve or fifteen inches deep, and place in the bottom six or nine inches of coal ashes, making it firm, to keep the worms down; then fill up to the top with coal ashes, or sand, plunge the pots in it up to the rims, place a bell or hand-glass over them, pressing it down firmly, to prevent too much air from entering, and that is all they will require for the first four or five days, when they may receive a slight sprinkling of water. Look to them occasionally, to see that they do not get dry, or that damp does not accumnlate. If all has gone on well, by the middle of August, they will be ready to pot off singly, into three-inch pots, and this should be done without delay, that they may get well established before winter. When potting, use the same sort of com-

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post as that recommended for the bottom of the cutting pots, place them in a close cold frame, and shade them from the hot sun. As soon as the pots are moderately filled with active roots, cut off all the points of the shoots, and by so doing, you will get good dwarf and bushy plants, and a proper foundation for fine specimens. When cold or foggy weather sets in, remove the plants to their winter quarters, which should be near the glass, in the greenhouse, where they may receive all the light possible, and a free circulation of air, whenever the weather will permit. As growth must not be encouraged at this season, give water only when the soil is getting dry, but then thoroughly moisten the ball. Towards the middle of March, repot the young specimens into five-inch pots, using good drainage and rich sandy peat; place them in a close frame or house, where the night temperature can be kept from forty to forty-five degrees, allowing it to rise some ten degrees with sun heat. Supply them carefully with water, till the roots have struck freely in the new soil, when a more liberal treatment may be practised. As the hot weather comes on, shade them from the mid-day sun. Towards the end of June, examine the pots, and if they are full of healthy roots, give a small shift into pots a size or two larger, return the plants to the cold frame, and attend to watering and shading till the end of August, when shading should be discontinued, that the wood may get well ripened before winter. In the autumn, when the weather begins to be cold, remove them to their winter quarters, which should be an airy greenhouse, or pit, that is heated by hot water or flue, that fire heat may be applied during frost or wet foggy weather. As spring advances, attend to potting them as they require it, using a compost rather coarser and with less sand in it than before, and mixing some small pieces of charcoal with it, which will prevent it becoming soddened and unhealthy. At the time of repotting, any shoots that are getting too long should be cut back, that is if the plants are not wanted to flower in a young state; but

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the right time to cut them back is when the flowers begin to fade, which will be during the month of July, and the earlier in the month the better, as they weaken the plant very much, if left on too long. In summer, set the plants in the open air, where they can be sheltered from cutting winds and shaded from the mid-day sun. As winter comes on, house them, as directed above. Beginners will, however, save time by procuring good strong plants from the nursery, and I will here give the names of those I consider the best, viz., Macrantha purpurea, Macrantha rosea, Humilis, Sesamoides superb, Fasciculata rubra, and Spectabilis.

E. CLEETON.

*Dumbleton.*

## Wintering Carnations.

IT is with diffidence I commence this article, but as the subject is one which is most interesting to many of your readers, I think that my experience, small though it is, may be of some assistance to those who are commencing the cultivation of the Carnation. After the layers are well rooted, I put two plants in a pot, three inches in diameter, which is quite large enough. The soil I use is well-rotted turf, with a little sand, to keep it open; sometimes I add a little leaf mould, but it causes no perceptible difference in the result. My frame has brick sides, with ventilators at top and bottom, so that the plants can be thoroughly aired, without exposing them to the weather. The panes of glass are twenty inches by ten inches, which gives a vast deal more light than the old-fashioned way of glazing with small pieces, four or five inches square. Another advantage in having large instead of small panes, is cleanliness, and the expense is very little more at first. The bottom of the frame is filled up with broken stones and rough gravel, and over that is about a foot of clean river sand. I immerse the pots to the

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rim in the sand, which brings the tops of the plants about nine inches from the glass. About the middle of November, I give them a good watering, wetting the sand at the same time, but taking care not to allow any water to drop into the hearts of the plants. They will probably not require another watering until after January. I fumigate with tobacco paper, if greenfly appear. I believe in the adage, "Prevention is better than cure." Accordingly, sometime in November, I dust all the plants over with sulphur, to prevent mildew; also occasionally through the winter, when the sulphur peels off. During four winters, I have followed the above method, and have not lost half-a-dozen plants. I may mention that occasionally, in very hard frosts, a mat is beneficial, during the night, only removing it after the sun has been striking on it for some time. I leave a description of the cultivation to abler pens than mine.

W.

## Thyrsacanthus Rutilans.

I CAN scarcely introduce to the readers of the *Midland Florist* a stove plant more worthy of their attention than the subject of the present notice, whether as regards its beautiful scarlet tubular-shaped flowers, or the arrangement of the inflorescence, This plant is not frequently seen in private collections, but why such should be the case it is hard to say, as it is neither difficult to propagate nor cultivate, and may be purchased for a couple of shillings, or half-a-crown at most.

The only fault it possesses, if it can be called a fault, is, that the habit of the plant is "leggy," according to gardening phraseology. This may be looked upon as an advantage, rather than otherwise, as, were the growth short and the plant more compact, the beauty of the flowers would be less effective.



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Like a Geranium, it may be cut down annually to a couple of eyes, but does not start into growth freely from the old wood. My usual practice is to strike young plants yearly, which are of a more robust habit, and flower more profusely than older ones.

The cuttings should be taken off as soon as the plant has done flowering, which is usually about the beginning of April. They root freely in an equal portion of silver sand and peat earth, placed in seventy-five to eighty degrees of bottom heat. They freely root, without the assistance of a propagating glass, if the atmosphere be kept moderately close. When potted off, use equal parts of light loam and leaf mould, which will be found to suit them at each additional shifting. My usual practice is to place two plants in a pot, to produce a larger quantity of flowers. During the growing season, a humid atmosphere and a rather high temperature are required. The plants will repay for all extra trouble.

JOHN LOGAN.

## Mr. Hunt's Sweetwilliams.

WILL you kindly insert in your next number a few lines on my Sweetwilliams, which are exciting some little interest in the floral world, or at least amongst that portion of its members who cultivate what are designated florists' flowers, with which the Sweet-william may now, I conceive, be fairly classed? The principal object I have in view is, first, to confirm the plain and truthful historical statement, in reference to my flowers, as described by Mr. Glenny, in his article, headed "Floriculture as a Science," in your number for February last. What he has there written is indeed a matter of fact. In it, he has "told no lies, made no mistakings." I had no idea of seeing such an article as the one referred to, and the gratification its perusal afforded me, was enhanced by the correct description of

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the method I have pursued, in the sweeping destruction of the *many* bad, and the anxious retention of the *few* good flowers, during the last twenty-four years. I have forwarded many communications to Mr. Glenny, on the subject, and I will now only add, he has truthfully "put them in print," and I feel assured they are calculated to be of great service to those growers of the flower who may read his article in your valuable periodical. Permit me further to state, that I have largely indulged in floricultural pursuits, as a hobby,—not for gain, but for pleasure—and as affording a rational, and I will add, an intellectual enjoyment, with which "a *stranger* intermeddleth not," and which none but a true florist knows.

I am desirous that my Sweetwilliams should be accessible to all, and had, as I conceived, adopted a right method to make them so; but I find it has failed, and now, by the advice of many friends, I purpose to pursue another course, in which I faithfully promise, that every person who may purchase seed or seedling plants shall, in every respect, be placed in the same position as myself; for there shall not be one grain of seed from the best bloom in my possession, that shall be retained, either for my own or any other person's growth, exclusively. The plan I shall adopt is the following:—Last year, I destroyed all but about forty of the best varieties. From these I saved seed, and kept each variety separate (some seed much more freely than others). Part of this seed I intend to sow the beginning of May, and in July, from the plants in bloom, I shall select those only to retain for seed which are fully equal and superior to any I have ever raised. This method, I am aware, will produce but a small quantity of seed; but that quantity, and the portion I shall reserve of last year's seed, above referred to, will, I think, be sufficient to supply most, if not all those who are desirous of obtaining it. The seedling plants produced from the seed I shall sow in May, I intend to offer for sale at the same time. They will be advertised in the *Midland Florist*, in July and August next.

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Allow me, Mr. Editor, just one word about the lists of Tulips, in your last number. I find the Rev. S. Creswell, Mr. Allestree, and Mr. Lymbery have included the Queen of the South in their lists of byblœmens; and while I feel honoured by such a manifestation of their loyal attachment to her Majesty, I also feel that it is but the just tribute that her good qualities fairly entitle her to. I did not include it in my list, simply because, being my own flower, not yet in any other person's possession, and having been seen but by few growers, I thought it not advisable to insert the name of a flower which could not, at present, at least, be obtained. I have only three roots broken, and about two dozen breeders, but as soon as my stock gets a little larger, the *Queen of the South* shall have an opportunity of appearing in public, in company with other *queens*.

J. HUNT.

## Correspondence on Roses.

GIVING Mr. T. Appleby credit for his motives, and believing that he does not write for the sake of criticising, it is very clear that he has come to the conclusion that I wrote the answer to J. W.'s question, as to the treatment of the Rose Gloire de Dijon, in utter ignorance of the subject, or wilfully to mislead both J. W. and others of your readers. Now, in the first place, is Mr. Appleby aware that the question asked was, How shall I manage the Rose Gloire de Dijon, so as to have it in bloom on the 12th of August? *and not at any other time.* And I would ask Mr. A. what would be the difference, supposing the Rose to have been well grown in a pot and flowered in April, whether you shorten all the shoots it has made (if not in each others way) to two or three eyes, or reduce the shoots to half the number, and cut them to

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six eyes. In my opinion, the only difference would be, the one plan would keep the plant dwarf and bushy, the other would make it tall and naked at bottom. I am well aware some Roses require thinning, but, if Gloire de Dijon make shoots three and four feet in length, as Mr. A. says it does with him, the less it is thinned the better, and it will certainly require cutting close, to keep it in shape. I have found that, generally speaking, to leave more than four eyes, even on the strongest-growing Roses, is to lose one or more of the lowest and most wanted shoots on each branch.

Again, I would ask Mr. A., supposing J. W.'s Roses to be planted in the open ground, when would he prune them, to have a chance of bloom on the day stated? I mentioned the middle of May, to show that it could not be done too late, well knowing, if pruned early, the first bloom would be over before the 12th of August, and the second, or autumn bloom not out. Again, I did not suppose J. W.'s plants were in bud. If so, they would, perhaps, make shoots of the length Mr. A. mentions, but I question whether a three-year old plant would make even two feet of wood in a season—not in this neighbourhood, at any rate. Mr. A. misunderstands my meaning, at page 80. I certainly mention Gloire de Dijon, but it is with five others, and I state that *they*, not *it* in particular, require a sheltered situation. Mr. A. further says the Noisettes are tender. I beg to differ from him. Is Aimee Vibert, Miss Clegg, Du Luxembourg, Euphrosyne, Poupre de Tyre, or indeed any true Noisette Rose, tender? That some of the (so called) Noisette Roses are tender I will admit, but it is only those that partake of the Tea character. I have never known a true Noisette, well established, to be killed by the weather.

I must also differ with Mr. A. with respect to the Rose Geant des Batailles. I have seen it in some soils, on its own roots, produce shoots three feet in length, and not even show a bloom, while worked plants, on the same bed, have bloomed well. Two years since, I was called in to look at a circular bed of Geant des

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Batailles, the centre being filled with standards, then half-standards, and edged with dwarfs on their own roots. The dwarfs grew so fast as to overtop the half-standards, and had scarcely a bloom on them all the season, while the worked plants flowered well the whole summer. Perhaps Mr. A. can explain this, or he may say it is only a solitary case, but I have seen the same thing several times, and for my own planting of this Rose, should always prefer plants worked on the common Brier.

Mr. Appleby states that there is no stock equal to the Manetti, for dwarf Roses, and another nurseryman says, after eight or nine years experience, he has found the Rose Descartes far superior to it, and as a proof, offers to give away thousands of Manettis. "When doctors disagree, who shall decide." He further says, I ought not to condemn it because I have not succeeded with it. I beg to inform him, that I have succeeded with it, and quite agree with him, that it is a first-rate stock, *for the nurseryman*, or for the amateur who wishes to increase a new or scarce sort. That it will do well for the first two or even three years, I will admit; and it may suit some kinds of Roses, in fact, does suit *a few*, well enough to grow them to large heads; but I repeat what I before stated, that it is not so good for a permanent Rose bed, or rosary, as the common Brier. To grow a Rose for sale is one thing, to grow it and keep it healthy and strong, after it comes from the nursery, is quite another thing; and I think most persons who have grown a collection of Roses on both stocks will agree with me that the common Brier, for all soils and situations, is the best. Mr. A.'s soil may, perhaps, suit the stock in question, while the soils I have had to do with may not. I have, however, tried it here, in Middlesex, in Sussex, in Worcestershire, Staffordshire, and Herefordshire, and, with *very few exceptions*, have found, after the first two years, that most Roses worked on it, planted in the open ground, get worse, instead of better; in short, dwindle and at last die. There are, however, a few

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that will thrive on it, and perhaps, if we can induce Mr. A. to give us his treatment, we may be able to manage it better.

I planted the bed of Roses referred to by Mr. A. in April, 1854, and the whole of them were turned out of pots, and mulched with short dung, and again mulched the following winter. By April, 1855, they had nearly disappeared, The bed was merely dug over, and planted with dwarfs, on the common Brier, treated as before, and not a plant died, but they grew and flowered well, both that and the succeeding summer.

I beg to assure Mr. Appleby that I have only one motive in offering my humble opinions to the readers of the *Midland Florist*, and that is, a sincere desire to convey to them any little information I have gained by practical experience, *and not to mislead*. I should be sorry to either enter into a controversy with Mr. A. or see the pages of the *Midland Florist* filled with it. I trust, therefore, that, as I am quite willing Mr. A. should enjoy his opinion, he will allow me to do the same.

H. DAVIES.

## Violets.

AMONGST the thousand and one little matters that divide the gardener's attention, the production of a few Violets, during the winter and spring months, must not be lost sight of, especially where the lady portion of the family are in the ascendancy in gardening matters. Of the various sorts in cultivation, the Russian is a good hardy variety, requiring but little attention. I find them answer best on a border, under a north wall. When they have done flowering, and made a little growth, I take the whole up, divide them, and plant a fresh row every season. They are best planted from the middle of April to the beginning of May. By this treatment, I have always a fine lot of

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plants, which produce plenty of bloom, and am not plagued with that troublesome pest the redspider. I also find the double true Violet very valuable for winter blooming. Of these I also make a fresh plantation yearly. But of all Violets, the Neapolitan is by far the best and sweetest. To grow this well, take runners as early as convenient (they would have been better had they been in a fortnight before this reaches the readers of the *Midland Florist*, but it is not too late now), plant them about three inches apart, on a well prepared border, supply them with water in dry weather, and keep them growing. This and keeping free from weeds is all the attention they will require during summer. About August or September, lift the plants carefully, with good balls, and for winter blooming, plant them in a frame, on an old Cucumber or Melon bed, the slight heat from which will soon cause them to root, and with a little fresh lining now and then, they will yield a good many nosegays of violets, during the winter and spring months. Another lot may be planted under a frame, without heat. They will require but little protection, except in frosty weather, and will produce a a large quantity of bloom, during March and April. The soil I find most suitable is a nice light loam, with a good addition of well-rotted hotbed manure.

WILLIAM SHIPLEY.

*Heywood Gardens, Westbury, Wilts.*

## Management of the Auricula.

IT was my intention to have given, in the April number, a short article on the management, blooming, and dressing the flowers of the Auricula, for exhibition; but unavoidable circumstances prevented me, and the season being past when it might have been of use to some of the readers of the *Midland Florist*, I shall waive it it for the present, and if all's well, give

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it in a future number, and in the meantime just say a few words on the treatment of the plants after the height of the bloom. With those that have not been impregnated, or are not wanted for seed, my plan is to take a sharp penknife, or a pair of scissors, and cut off every pip, about half-way between the socket and the stem. This will assist the plants in sending up their hearts, and in due time, the stem will die off, without injuring the bole; whereas, in some varieties, if the whole truss of pips or seed pods are allowed to remain, the stem feeds upon the plant, takes much strength from it, gets thick and woody, and at last, when taken off, leaves a large hole, about which the wet lodges, and causes the plant to canker and die off; or if no wet is allowed to touch the plants, where the stems are allowed to grow in this way, the hearts will be weak, and by no means free, open, and vigorous, as they would have been, had the pips been taken away directly the blooms began to fade. The beginning of May, or soon after, as the bloom and shows are over, the whole of the plants should be removed to their summer quarters, which should have a north or north-east aspect, where they can have the benefit of the morning sun, till eight or nine o'clock, when they should be shaded, till six or seven in the evening. But after the plants are so placed in the shed, they should not be forgotten or neglected a single day. To keep them healthy and all right, they require looking to almost every morning or evening. In dry weather, they should be regularly watered, and in rainy and damp weather, they should be protected from the wet; but at all times, they should have the benefit of all the winds and clear air possible. There is another very important matter connected with the care of the plants. Good eyesight is a rare matter, and where that is rather weak, a pair of good barnacles will be found very useful for looking out sharp. From the early part of May to the middle of July, or later, there is a sort of blight, to which the Auricula is very subject. A greenish-looking fly deposits its eggs on the leaves of the plants, and in a very few hours they



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are hatched, in the form of a small caterpillar or black grub, which makes its way into the plant, draws the leaves together, folds itself up, and directly eats out the whole heart, which completely spoils and sometimes kills the plant. I would advise those parties who have not time to attend to their plants daily, to procure some of the finest hexagon net, such as is made by Mr. Lymbery and others, about Nottingham, and place it over a light frame, about six inches above the plants. This will found of use in protecting them from these pests, which are very troublesome, if not watched and guarded against.

Now for a word or two on the soil or compost, which I guarantee will be found most suitable for growing the Auricula, year after year, in fine healthy condition, clear from rot, canker, or anything of the kind. May is the best month in the whole year for mixing and preparing soil for Auriculas. Perhaps it may be a little expensive, or somewhat out of the way, for those who do not hold land, or keep cattle, but, "where there is a will there is a way." Soon after the cows are turned out to grass, take the barrow and shovel, and gather as many cow droppings as you may think necessary; to three barrowsful of these add one barrowful of turfy loam, sifted through as fine a sieve as possible, and about a fifth part of silver sand, not over fine; beat and mix the whole well together, as if you were preparing it for mortar, for the bricklayer; lay it in a heap, in some open airy situation—the middle of a field is the most suitable place—and there let it remain till the latter end of July. Then take the spade, chop it down, and give it a good turn-over. Let it lie another six weeks, and after that, chop it down and give it a good turn-over once a month, until the following July, when it will be quite fit for use, after sifting through a half-inch sieve, not finer, for it suits the roots and fibres of the plants much better when left a little rough, than when it is fine and close. Some parties may fancy this kind of compost will be too new, at the end of fourteen months, but prepare and attend to it as I have directed,

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and it will be found to answer much better than the two or three-year-old dense stuff. The Auricula, like the Ranunculus and other plants, thrives best in stuff with a little life left in it. It is my firm opinion, that where one Auricula has suffered through being planted in too new compost, fifty have been thrown into canker and killed by being planted in old worn-out stuff; but I may return to this subject at a future time. For the present, I conclude with hearty success to all Auricula growers, and although we have now not one left where I can recollect ten, I hope to live to see twenty, to fill the places of those who have retired or gone hence. The Auricula was my first fancy flower, and grow what other plants or flowers I may, while I live, it will remain the favourite.

J. HEPWORTH.

*Lea Bridge Gardens, Leyton, Essex, N.E.*

## Our Miscellany.

NATIONAL TULIP SHOW.—In the April number of the *Midland Florist*, it is stated that the north country Tulip growers express their disappointment at the Tulip show being fixed too early. As the committee had letters from Lancashire, Derbyshire, and Nottinghamshire, all wishing the show to be fixed in Whit-week, it was thought we should meet the wishes of most of the competitors if the exhibition was held on the 27th of May. The privilege of holding the show in the Botanical Gardens was only granted on the condition that it was held on a Thursday, and the committee had to fix on a day not so late as to exclude the southern growers, and yet early enough, on the average of seasons, for those who reside in the north. It appears those who complain would have fixed on a day to "favour" themselves. I can only say, our committee acted in the matter with the best intentions of suiting the greatest number of competitors. Not any of those who have joined the show have expressed a

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wish to return to class-showing, but many have expressed their approval of the system pursued at the "National," of staging in pans.—SAMUEL BAGSHAW.

NATIONAL TULIP SHOW, SHEFFIELD, 1858.—The schedule was not out at the time of our going to press; we have, however, the following particulars. The prizes will amount to between seventy and eighty pounds. Among them are four silver plated tea and coffee services, value of which varies from five to eight guineas; four sets of ivory table cutlery, in mahogany cases, each comprising fifty-three pieces, and each of the value of from four to five pounds.

OBITUARY.—Died, on the 9th of April, 1858, aged forty-eight years, JOHN TURNER, ESQ., of Godley, near Hyde, a magistrate of the counties of Cheshire and Lancashire. He was a most enthusiastic amateur Tulip grower, and was treasurer of the National Tulip Exhibition fund, at Manchester, 1857. By his death, the poor have sustained a loss which will be visibly felt. He was kind, benevolent, generous, sincere and open-hearted to all ranks of society, and ever willing to do good. Though but a young Tulip grower, his knowledge, taste, and correct judgment were universally acknowledged, and his desire to promote the cultivation of his favourite flower was excelled by none.

## Opinions on Flowers, &c.

C. Y., *Harrow.*—Your seedling Cyclamen is large and fine, and must be considered a first-rate Persicum. The seedling Cinerarias, although useful for conservatory decoration, are not up to the mark in quality or newness of colour, both essential points, in these days of increased energy on the part of Cineraria raisers.—It is hoped that our friend at Harrow will prepay the carriage in future. All parcels with flowers for opinion, should be delivered free. In future, unless these hints are attended to, no notice will be taken of the communication.

W. B., *Huddersfield.*—Your Cinerarias, like the former, are a good strain, but nothing further than useful for greenhouse or conservatory decoration to recommend them. Try again.

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H., *Hartington*.—The seedling Cineraria, although a cheerful colour, and equal to many varieties in cultivation, is not what we should call a first-rate flower; it is wanting in quality.

JOHN DOBSON.

# Notes and Queries.

IN vol. 2 of the *Midland Florist*, page 132, I find Lilium colchicum described. Is it obtainable in town, and can you tell me what is the price? I should feel much obliged if you or any of your correspondents would give an article on the culture of the Lilium.—J. L.

A correspondent asks for twelve good Verbenas. We give the following, from Mr. J. Linton:—I have very great pleasure in forwarding to you, for insertion in the *Midland Florist*, the undernamed twelve varieties of Verbenas, which I consider should be grown by every lover of that flower. Of course, some of them are well known, but not to be despised on that account. General Simpson (Todman), Geant des Batailles (Todman), Mrs. Holford (Todman), Prince of Wales (Edmonds), Attraction (Edmonds), Rosy Gem (Edmonds), Prince of Oude (Edmonds), Pre-eminent (Edmonds), Standard Bearer (Edmonds), Mrs. Woodruffe (Woodruffe), Purple King (Woodruffe), Florence Nightingale (Woodruffe).

Sometime last year, I wrote to you about the best and cheapest way of shading a greenhouse. You recommended a roller of some kind, in preference to whiting the glass inside. Will you be kind enough to give me your opinion as to the best way of fixing up a shade, as it would have to be worked in some way with a cord, the house being thirteen feet high at the back? What do you thing of a roller to run up and down the roof? What is your idea of Shaw's tiffany? I think it is not strong enough for outside. Would common calico be better? I see an advertisement in this month's number, from Mr. Haythorn. What do you think of his shading? I have Vines, and if whiting will do as well as any other plan, I don't mind the trouble; but I fear the Vines would not do so well, as the place would be shaded in dull as well as in hot weather. I also inquired whether manure water should be used for Camellias, but you have not yet touched upon that subject.—JOHN BURROUS, *Beeston Hill, Holbeck, near Leeds.*

Can any lover of Pomona give a subscriber the address of Thomas Cox, the raiser of Cox's Orange Pippin Apple? or the address of any party that can supply plants of that variety?

J. W.



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# Calendar of Operations.

AZALEAS.—The great art in cultivating this fine tribe of plants is to take every advantage of the growing season, when light abounds. Therefore stimulate by all possible means. Get rapid growth and well ripened wood. (See last month's calendar.) Put in cuttings, as directed in the January number, page 31.

CHRYSANTHEMUMS.—In consequence of the very fine April, the plants are drawn to considerable length, and those that have not been removed from their flowering place of last year, should be carefully thinned out to three or four of the strongest suckers, and pegged down; a litle fine earth should be shook in the centre of them, being careful not to bury any slugs, and pull off all decayed leaves. The late varieties are now sufficiently grown to be taken up or thinned out, according to the wishes of the amateur. If taken up and replanted, let there be three or four in a patch, and plenty of sand or leaf mould, to start them. A large pot, or any other shade, would very much assist them, if put over for a week or so, but do not overwater, or they will damp off. Put in cuttings, in shady parts of the garden, using plenty of sand. They will soon strike, and will come in very useful, to fill up any vacancies that may occur, or for pot plants, &c. Large varieties, intended for show, or for private exhibition, may now, I think, with safety, be taken out of the cold frames, and placed where they are to bloom. Stop immediately all plants intended for pot specimens that are grown to six or seven joints. Give plenty of water in the morning, or not later than three p.m. Large varieties, for cut specimen blooms, must be tied up, and all laterals taken off as soon as they appear. Do not allow the pots to get too full of roots, before giving a change. My esteemed friend, Mr. Holland, has kindly undertaken to furnish monthly notes on the culture of Pompone Chrysanthemums. This will add much to the success of the amateur, if he follow his practical directions, he being one of the most successful growers we have.—S. BROOME, F.H.S., *Temple Gardens.*

CINERARIAS.—These will be in perfection till the third week in the month, and if treated as recommended in previous numbers, will fully repay for any extra attention that may have been given them. There continues to be a great advance made in this class of plants; the varieties raised a few years ago are giving place to such as approach the true standard of perfection. It will be necessary to turn attention to the increasing of stock. If fine large plants are desired, the earlier the cuttings are put in the better. Plant them round the sides of small pots, in some nice light soil, containing plenty of silver sand. Place them in a close frame, away from the sun. As

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soon as they are rooted, pot them off singly into thumb pots, and keep them in a cool shady frame. They must be liberally supplied with water, and, after they have been potted a few days, must have plenty of air. There is no plant, I think, so subject, in a young state, to blackfly, as the Cineraria, causing the leaves to curl, and otherwise injuring the plants. It may be effectually got rid of by applying the following solution, before the cuttings are repotted a second time, or when they are taken off the plants. A pound of tobacco, steeped in boiling water, and a pound of soft soap, dissolved in hot water. After they have stood a few hours, strain them through a piece of muslin or a fine sieve, mix them together, and add about four gallons and a half of water. Immerse the plants in the liquid, holding the pots bottom upwards, and placing the fingers on the mould, to prevent it leaving the pot. This mixture will be found to be a preventive as well as a cure. Plants in bloom should be shaded and liberally supplied with water. If greenfly is visible, fumigate at once. Where early bloom is required, seed may be sown the beginning of the month.—JOHN DOBSON, *Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth.*

CUCUMBERS.—A moderate degree of heat will still be necessary to be kept up in the beds, and air and water more liberally supplied. The early plants will now be bearing in abundance. When the shoots become confused or crowded, let them be moderately thinned, so as to admit a circulation of air into every part of the bed. This thinning should be performed by degrees, and not at one specific time. If the plants appear affected by the too powerful influence of the sun, let them be shaded, during a few hours each day, by spreading a thin mat over them, which, however, should not be allowed to remain on too long in the afternoon. Towards the middle of the month, ridges should be put up, upon which to plant Cucumbers, to be perfected by the protection of large bell or hand-glasses. These ridges should not be sunk under the surface, as is frequently the case, for when sunk, it is impossible to refresh the heat, should it be required, by linings of leaves, or grass from the lawn. This not only adds to the heat of the ridges, but also increases the surface for the plants to be trained upon, which, at first, should not be less than two feet in height, and three feet in breadth, and should be covered over, about six inches deep, with such soil as is recommended for the plants in frames. The general management of plants on ridges varies but little from that on hotbeds, only they will be required to be more sparingly supplied with water, until they are fully established and the season is sufficiently mild; after which, they will require, in dry weather, more copious supplies than those in close boxes, or frames, being more exposed to the drying effects of sun and wind.—JOHN BURTON, *Oxton.*

DAHLIAS.—Much of future success depends on the state the plants are in at this season. The first part of the season was

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very unfavourable to the early-struck plants. Those which have not been kept in a warm situation, have become stocky, while others, which have been kept warm, are drawn up weakly, for want of air, which the inclemency of the weather prevented being given to them. Therefore, the cuttings taken off about the first week in April, and placed in a brisk bottom heat, will make the best plants for either decoration or competition. Cuttings which have taken root should be potted into small pots, and plunged in heat, and as soon as the roots make their appearance round the sides of the pots, repot them into pints, and give them a more airy situation. Supply them freely with water, as they require it, to keep them growing as quick as possible, without drawing them up. Prepare for planting, by taking out a few spadesful of earth where each plant is to be set: then drive in the stakes firmly, and fill up the holes with rich soil, leaving it rather the highest in the centre. Commence planting about the third week in the month. Press the soil firmly round the stems, give a good watering, and as soon as it is settled, tie the plants to the stakes, to prevent them being broken by the wind. Place a small pot, with a little moss in it, upon each stake. These are the cheapest traps for earwigs, if not the best. Look them over about twice a-week. When they have commenced growth, a little decayed dung placed around the plants, but not close to the stems, will be very beneficial, in dry weather.—RICHARD EDWARDS, *Nuthall.*

EPACRISES.—Repot, as directed in the March calendar. If a cold pit is at command, place the plants in it, to make their growth. Syringe freely, and shade when requisite. Stop or pinch out the points of strong shoots, and establish a strong uniform growth, and by this means an abundance of fine blooming wood will be secured for the next season's flowering.—E. CLEETON, *gardener to E. Holland, Esq., M.P., Dumbleton.*

FLOWER GARDEN.—Thin out, according to their habit, all annuals, so that those left may have room to grow. Fuchsias that have been matted up, or protected, will now be pushing up their shoots. Rub off all those that are not wanted, to prevent the bushes being too crowded. Seeds of herbaceous and perennial plants may be sown. Polyanthuses and Primroses, that have done flowering, may be cut down, and the earth about them loosened, giving water, to keep them growing. Weeds must be kept down, and the watering pot in constant use. Balsams may be planted. Annuals raised in heat, such as Stocks, Asters, French and African Marigolds, &c., may be planted out,—one in front and two behind. Dahlias may be planted, and many little things, too numerous to mention, must have attention. Train everything in time. Lawns may be mown. When practicable with your pockets, buy a mowing machine. Very useful inventions these.

FORCING DEPARTMENT.—With an increased temperature and sun heat, increase the supply of air. In the absence of the

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sun, stir the fires in the morning, as a steady advance of temperature must be kept up at this season. Sprinkle the floors with a fine rose. Better do this often than deluge the floors with a great quantity of water at one time, as some parties do, forgetting that the plants in question are not aquatic. Give air early, and do not wait till the thermometer indicates any given point. I would here strongly impress on the minds of amateurs the consequence of neglecting this. I have seen a whole pit of very fine Pine Apple plants scorched and spoilt, also the leaves of Vines, Melons, Cucumbers, and other plants. The air in houses and pits being, in most places, confined during the night, it becomes vitiated, and the tender foliage is soon scorched, if they are allowed to remain closed till the sun has attained sufficient altitude to direct its rays on pit or forcing house. Where the early Vines are planted outside, look well to the heating material. As a corresponding rise of heat to the roots will be requisite, do not be allured by a few sunny days to strip of the coverings too soon. See to moistening the stems, where they pass through the wall, and up to the foliage, with tepid water, sprinkling the front and all dry parts near the heating apparatus. Use the syringe more freely to Figs and other plants on the back wall, but not to the foliage of the Vine, as the moisture arising from the floor will be sufficient.——*Late Vinery.*—Attend to thinning and stopping the young breaks, leaving one, or at most two shoots to a spur, as may be requisite. Sprinkle the house two or three times a day, in fine weather, and shut up early.——*Peach House.*—Where thinning the young shoots has not been finished, go over them, and rub off all beneath the trellis, and those that are situate at the extreme top of last year's wood. Where not finished, continue thinning the fruit, leaving them, as a general rule, six to eight inches apart every way. See that the roots do not suffer for want of water. Give a good syringing over head, every fine day. Do not attempt a high night temperature by artificial means.——*Figs* will require a large a large amount of water, both root and top, particularly those in pots. Continue to stop them at the points of the shoots, to prevent the attraction of the juices of the plant from the first crop, which should now be fast coming to maturity.—M. Busby, F.H.S.

Fruit Garden.—Apricots have bloomed freely with us, and set a heavy crop. They will require thinning by the middle of the month. Peaches and Nectarines have also bloomed very heavy, and apear to have set well, and so far (April 13) are quite safe. The trees will now require going over, to thin out the shoots and fruit; but this had better be done at two or three different times, so as not to check the flow of sap too much. We have a very promising show of Apple, Pear, Plum, and Cherry bloom, with but very little open at present. Gooseberries and Currants will now require looking after, to keep down caterpillars. To destroy these, there is, perhaps, nothing

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better than hand picking. Do not let newly-planted trees suffer from drought.——William Shipley, *Westbury, Wilts.*

Fuchsias.—The earliest lot of plants, being in the blooming pots, will continue to make rapid firowth, and should be rather liberally supplied with manure water. Great attention to tying up the shoots will also be necessary. Shade during the day, when the sun is out. Maintain a moist growing atmosphere. Late-blooming plants should receive their final stopping early in the month, and should be put into their blooming pots, giving them some rich soil. Every shoot must be regularly stopped, thus rendering fewer sticks necessary, and producing a well-formed plant. The plants will thrive without artificial heat, and will be stocky and strong. Young plants should be stopped and repotted as required. Syringe occasionally. Young stock may still be increased. They will flower well in the autumn, and be useful for decoration, after other plants have done blooming. Use the watering pot liberally, and fumigate occasionally.—John Dobson, *Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth.*

Heathery.—Put in cuttings as soon as the wood is fit to take off. Prepare the pots as directed for Epacrises. Cover with a bell-glass, and set them in a close pit or frame, where the temperature can be kept at fifty-five degrees. Keep them shaded from the sun. Prepare a place for the specimens, during their summer season. The best situation I could ever find is behind a low hedge or north wall, where the sun does not shine upon either the plants or pots, after ten o'clock in the morning. Place plenty of coal ashes and sand under and round the pots. Towards the end of the month, some of the plants may be placed out of doors.—Edward Cleeton, *gardener to E. Holland, Esq., M.P., Dumbleton.*

Hollyhocks.—Attention should now be given to staking. A four-foot stake, from the ground, is all that is required for a plant eight feet high. Thin out, according to the strength of the plants. Water well with liquid manure, to encourage the growth, and as the spike rises, secure it well by tying- A top-dressing of thoroughly decomposed manure will prove beneficial, if applied next month, but previous to this, stir the soil around the plants.—Wm. Chater, *Nurseries, Saffron Walden.*

Kitchen Garden.—Sow succession Peas. Knight's Dwarf Marrows are excellent sorts for this crop. Put in the principal crop of Scarlet Runners, the first week in the month, and a succession the last week. If not already done, sow Beet. Prick out Celery, and plant out the early crop. Plant out and sow succession Cauliflowers. Continue to sow small salading. Sow Lettuce every fortnight. Plant out Cucumbers and Vegetable Marrows, under hand-glasses. Plant out Tomatoes, under a south wall. Sow Rampion, for winter use. Sow succession Turnips. Plant cuttings or slips of Sage, Rosemary, and other herbs. Earth up Potatoes, as they require it. Prick

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out Broccoli, Savoys, and other plants, when large enough, to get strong, previous to final planting. Keep all growing crops free from weeds, and use the hoe freely. Thin out Onions, Carrots, Parsnips, &c.—WILLIAM SHIPLEY, *Westbury, Wilts.*

PANSIES.—These interesting plants will be in their full beauty through the month. If the weather is dry and hot, they will require shading, or if moved to a place, say under a north wall or hedge, where they can have the full benefit of light and air, without sun, they would be much the better for it. Where requred for exhibition, pinch off all blooms that come, till a fortnight before the show. Then allow them to grow, and give weak manure water two or three times a week. Those to be exhibited in pots may be treated in like manner. Blooms on those out of doors will not be in their true character till the end of the month, or the beginning of June. The side shoots may be put either in pots or beds, to strike, selecting a shady part for the purpose. By removing the side shoots, or offsets, the plant is strengthened and the blooms maintain their original character, while on the other hand, if they are allowed to remain, the tendency to degenerate will be observable in a season. This tendency to degenerate causes fewer growers of this beautiful spring flower than there otherwise would be. Plants in beds will require watching, as earwigs and slugs will be found destructive to the blooms, while the wireworm is busy about the roots. The latter are more to be feared, perhaps, than the former, for the plant is entirely destroyed, if they are allowed to carry on their work of devastation without a check. The proper time, however, to guard against this is before the plants are put in, when the soil should be well examined. Seedlings will be fast coming into bloom, and should be looked over daily, and if there is anything promising, place a label to it, and make such memoranda as may be useful. Those that are good should be encouraged, propagated, and proved. The plants in pots will be benefitted by damping over the foliage occasionally with a fine rose watering pot or a light shower.—JOHN DOBSON, *Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth.*

PELARGONIUMS.—As much of the success depends on the treatment of the plants previous to blooming, so also it is necessary that the same attention should be continued till they have done flowering. A day's neglect will cause them to go back, and they will be less interesting. Small flowers may be attributed to neglect, or to overdoing them; thinness of bloom to overpotting, or being pot-bound; either extreme, in both cases, will produce the same result, and those who have followed the advice given in these papers will see the marked difference there is between doing them well and allowing them to take their chance. The season being rather backward, artificial means must be resorted to, to produce a good bed of bloom by the middle of the month The early blooms generally

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come small, but, if I may judge from the plants grown by us, the blooms are coming both large and fine in colour. Bees must be effectually excluded, as soon as the flowers begin to expand. Netting, at about threepence or fourpence a yard, or Haythorn's hexagon garden net, will be found the best thing to use; light and air are admitted through it, and, to a certain extent, greenfly is excluded. With care, the netting will last several seasons. The May plant should receive less manure water, as they should not be making growth while they are in flower. See that the plants are liberally supplied with water, and shade from nine o'clock in the morning till four in the afternoon. The June plants should be kept growing, with a little less shading. Give plenty of air. The July plants will require constant attention to training out the shoots. Give them plenty of room and plenty of air. They should be kept cool, and manure water may be given every other watering. Watch the greenfly. Takes notes of any new varieties, or such sorts as may be required in the autumn. These will be found of great assistance in selecting from the catalogues. Keep young stock of new kinds constantly growing. They will make fine plants next season.—JOHN DOBSON, *Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth.*

TULIPS are now making rapid progress, and a fine bloom may be confidently anticipated. Let the bed be uncovered day and night, only protecting, as last month, from frost and excessive rain, until they begin to come into flower, when the awning may be put up. If seed be wanted, impregnation should be resorted to, choosing in all cases varieties of the same class, and bearing in mind that form, purity, and substance of petal are essential requisites in a fine Tulip.—T. ALLESTREE, *Draycott, near Derby.*——Amateurs who are desirous of trying their skill at raising a few seedling Tulips, are respectfully reminded that this is the month for commencing operations. They must be careful in selecting some of the improved varieties, taking form and purity as their criterion, and fertilize with something really fine, of the same class, and see that it is done immediately the flower opens, before the bee forestalls them. Then cover the flower with a little fine net, or gauze. Shade the seed pods from wet, which often spoils all the labour, and take care that they are fully ripe before they are gathered, and let them remain in a warm situation, after they are gathered, until quite dry. Many growers are of opinion that taking seed from choice sorts is detrimental to the bulbs. I can truly say, that those I operated on, last season, look equally as fine and healthy as the others. The infinite pleasure and interest excited, as he sees the new faces expand and develope their beauties, is of itself sufficient to induce the young and ardent amateur to try his skill, and far more satisfactory than purchasing trash from dishonest dealers.—JOHN WALKER, *Winton.*

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# Cultivation of Dielytra Spectabilis.

THIS plant, a recent botanical introduction, unlike many of the new plants brought into notice in this island, is an object of great beauty, when well grown. It is of graceful pendulous habit, with singularly formed flowers, of a pale rose colour, when forced, or grown in a close atmosphere, and rich vermillion when exposed to a liberal share of light and air. It is a useful and beautiful plant, in the conservatory, in early spring, or indeed, at any time, its presence in this structure is ornamental; and it is equally beautiful in border or bed, in the open air. I grow a number of specimens, for the conservatory, in spring, and for the drawing room and other places where plants are required. I will, therefore, with your permission, offer a few remarks on my manner of cultivating it, by which good specimens are obtained. In the centre of the interior of the conservatory, is an antique vase, of large dimensions, about twelve feet in height, and the plants in the vicinity of this superb relic of ancient sculpture, are required to be of considerable size, otherwise a disproportion would exist between it and the botanical specimens. The first stock of plants, received from the nursery in January, in four-inch pots, were planted four feet apart, every way, in April, in an open border, which had previously been trenched to the depth of two feet, and had a good dressing of old manure from a Melon bed. In this situation they remained during the summer, being frequently watered



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in dry weather, mulched round in the hottest part, and the ground occasionally forked up, till about the middle of October, when they were lifted, and placed in pots, about eighteen inches in diameter, in equal parts of sandy peat and light sandy loam, made rich by frequent waterings of strong manure water, from a sheep-yard, thrown over the whole heap, when turned over, in the compost ground, the preceding summer and winter. When potted, they were placed in a cold frame, and protected from frost and heavy rain, but exposed in favourable weather, by removing the lights. Here they remained, without watering, till the beginning of December, when they were removed to the greenhouse, and introduced to a temperature of forty-five degrees by night, and fifty to fifty-five by day, and placed where they could receive as much light and air as possible, until they started into growth, when they were removed to the pit of the forcing house, where a gentle bottom heat was kept up, and a temperature ranging from fifty to sixty degrees, with a rise of ten degrees during the day, in clear fine weather. In this structure, they were placed near the glass, and received all the advantage of light, and air on every favourable opportunity; they were syringed with soft water, of the temperature of the house, and watered with weak manure water, every third or fourth day, when watering was required, but at that time of the year, when there is little sun and long nights, overwatering must be avoided, as too liberal a supply would encourage attenuated growth, which should be guarded against in the cultivation of all plants. When the plants start into growth, a great number of crowns, of various sizes, are thrown up, all which, except five or six of the strongest, should be removed, when about two inches in length, if fine specimens be desired. The crowns which are taken off, if potted, and repotted into larger pots as they progress in growth, will, if duly hardened, be ready to plant out about the middle of May, to be treated similar to the plants from which they were taken, to form material for forcing, the following spring, and in the meantime

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making a display in the borders. If the specimens have gone on favourably, they will be noble objects for the conservatory about the third week in January, or a week earlier, if the weather be mild. Their beautiful foliage and graceful habit have a fine effect among Camellias, Azaleas, Roses, Cinerarias, and early-flowering plants. When in the forcing house, it is necessary to keep a sharp look out after insects, many of which, like the molesters of mankind, are seldom to be seen in daylight, but are very busy during the time the industrious cultivator should be taking the nocturnal repose necessary to enable him to enter on the duties of the ensuing day, with a clear head, a willing heart, and steady hands.

GEORGE TAYLOR.

*Danson, Kent.*

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# Selection and General Treatment of Roses,

## FOR EXHIBITION.

THE following excellent remarks, which appeared a few days ago, in the *Southern Times*, are placed at our disposal by the Rev. W. F. Radclyffe, of Rushton Rectory. They need no praise from us, and we submit them, without hesitation, to the readers of the *Midland Florist*.

### THE NATIONAL ROSE SHOW.

Willing to assist the florists of my county in winning distinction at the National Rose Show, I offer the following remarks. The Rose is the "Queen of Flowers," and it is a national and sacred emblem. While Pinks, Pansies, Tulips, Dahlias, Pelargoniums, and Hollyhocks have had their particular societies and exclusive exhibitions, the Rose has been sadly neglected nationally; and if you visit the gardens and lawns of England, you will see it generally neglected or ill-treated. To help it to a better *status*, I have written several trifling articles in the *Florist*, and have been repaid already by thanks from all parts of England, including the Isle of Wight. What I have written, was not for fame, but for the public

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good—not from book reading, but from five years' experience. A similar desire to benefit others, prompts me to offer a few remarks, which may be available for this year's national show, or for some future one; and if they should not be available for public exhibition, yet they may be conducive to private gratification. The Rose is not only beautiful, but, more or less, sweet scented, which latter attribute Pelargoniums, Dahlias, Fuchsias, Hollyhocks, and many other beautiful flowers lack, or, if they have any scent, it is repulsive. The Rose is the only flower that will bloom from May or June till winter sets in. My last bouquet, this year, was cut the 20th of January. The Roses were the Blush China, Pierre St. Cyr, Charles Boissiere, and Paul Dupuy, the twin gem in Prince Leon's year. They were grown in the open air, but covered overhead with glass, and at their feet with grass and glass over it. These trees were planted in April, which accounts for their late blooming (second series). Moreover, the Rose is the only flower that is beautiful in all stages; in its rise, progress, zenith, decline, and decay. The main points to be attended to are selection, soil, planting, staking and binding, pruning, protecting, watering, and manuring.

## FIRST, SELECTION.

1. Summer Roses.—I have a great assortment, but will only speak of those which I have proven. 1, Blanchfleur; 2, Kean; 3, Ohl; 4, Coup d'Hebe; 5, Madeline; 6, Paul Ricaut. These are all beautiful, and the second, third, fourth, and sixth are first-class. They are equal to any autumnals in form and colour. The fourth is one of the finest Roses in England, and is certainly the best of the summer Roses.

2. Autumnal Roses.—Rivers's select list has been lately sent to me, and I find that out of his picked sixty-six Hybrid Perpetuals, I have forty-nine. Of the best of them—that is for my windy situation—I have from one to eight, as it is better to multiply Roses that do well than to buy new ones, whose only distinction may be "they are distinctly bad."

Hybrid Plants.—1, Alexandrine Bachmeteff; 2, Auguste Mie; 3, Bacchus; 4, Baron Laray; 5, Baronne Hallez; 6, Baronne Prevost; 7, Beranger; 8, Caroline de Sansalles; 9, Col. de Rougemont; 10, Comte de Nanteuil; 11, Duchesse d'Orleans; 12, Duchess of Sutherland; 13, Duchess of Norfolk; 14, Duchesse de Cambaceres; 15, Geant des Batailles; 16, General Bedeau; 17, General Brea; 18, General Jacqueminot; 19, General Pelissier; 20, General Simpson; 21, Gloire de France; 22, Jules Margottin; 23, Lord Raglan; 24. Louise Peronny; 25, Madame Ducher; 26, Madame Guinoisseau; 27, Madame Knorr; 28, Madame Laffay; 29, Madame Masson; 30, Madame Phelip; 31, Madam Place; 32, Madam Rivers; 33, Madame Vidot; 34, Mathurin Regnier; 35, Pauline Lansezeur; 36, Paul

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Dupuy; 37, Prince Chipetouzikoff; 38, Prince Leon; 39, Reine des Fleurs; 40, Robin Hood; 41, Sir John Franklin, the best of the Geant's race that I have yet seen or bloomed; 42, Souvenir de Leveson Gower; 43, Tojours Fleuri; 44, Triomphe de Paris; 45, Triomphe d'Avranches; 46, Souvenir de la Reine d'Angleterre; 47, Triomphe de l'Exposition; 48, Victor Trouillard; 49, William Griffiths. On the goodness of these, Rivers stakes his reputation. Most of them I have bloomed, and they are good. I have many others. To the above, you may add, 50, Pius the Ninth, a superb hardy self-repairing Rose, that throws more good and less bad Roses than any other that I have. Like Baron Pevost, unless moved in the autumn or spring, it will not bear so late as many others. 51, Madame Domage, and 52, Madame Hector Jaquin, are both superb. 53, Sydonie, a resplendent pink satin crumple, and abundant bloomer, good for pole, wall, or standard.

Bourbons.—Of these, on "high" standards, beware. The best for these are, 54, Acidalie; 55, Dupetit Thouars; 56, Bouquet de Flore; 57, Queen of Bourbons; 58, Malmaison, perhaps the most beautiful of all light-coloured Roses. It is best as a dwarf, under a south wall, with a wide awning of thatch; better still for a greenhouse. 59, Louis Odier, suited for a pole. This is a beautiful Perpetual Coup d'Hebe. The two first are my favourites. The best new-wooded Bourbons sent me this year are Reveil and Sir Joseph Paxton. I have two Prince Alberts (moderate in wood), of which Mr. Paul, in a letter to me, speaks in the highest terms. He says "it is the richest of all Roses." It must be rich to beat Prince Leon and General Jacqueminot, or Dupetit Thouars.

Tea Roses.—60, Gloire de Dijon, on a Dog Rose, makes a good standard. 61, Devoniensis, lovely, but requires a south wall, and winter protection. As far as I have seen Teas, these are the best. Vicomtesse de Cazes and Elise Sauvage are most lovely, but extremely tender. Sixty, for all purposes, is the best Tea Rose in existence, according to my judgment. The two sent me from Tiley, of Bath, among a hundred others, are on a Dog Rose, the best stock, as regards wood.

Noisettes.—62, Cloth of Gold, is the premier. Its shape is a most perfect bell. It requires age and much rich loam. 63, Lamarque, very fine. The above remarks apply. 64, Solfaterre, and 65, Jaune Despres, are the best for your house. They all require a south wall, but the two last come quick, bloom abundantly, and fill the air with tea scent.

If your situation is exposed, you must avoid dwarf-habited and delicate Roses. I have had quite enough of them. Look in the catalogue for fine form, decided colour, and vigorous, free, or robust habit. If, in addition, it says, blooms freely and late in autumn, you have all that can be desired in a Rose. The west wind blows right into my Roses. For such a situation—and they are good for any situation, the best are, one,



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two, three, eight, thirteen, fourteen, fifteen, eighteen, twenty-two, thirty-four, thirty-six, forty-two, forty-seven, forty-nine, fifty, fifty-one, fifty-three, fifty-four, fifty-five, fifty-six, fifty-seven, and sixty. Make a start with these, and you will be quite right.

Fine forms for exhibition are the Geant, Laray, Hallez, Brea, Domage, Vidot, Prince Leon, Jules Margottin, Robin Hood, Paul Dupuy, Madame Guinoisseau, Reine des Fleurs, Louise Peronny, Colonel de Rougemont, Duchesse d'Orleans, Madame Laffay, William Griffiths. Flattish Cups, Sir J. Franklin, Alexandrine Bachmeteff. The four finest large show Perpetuals are Caroline de Sansalles, Baron Prevost, Duchess of Sutherland, and La Reine.

## SECOND, GENERAL TREATMENT.

Having made your selection, plant them in the richest soil. Loam, well dressed with rotten manure, is the best soil—ground that will grow a Cauliflower or Cabbage. On lawns, which, if good, are always poor, the holes must be at least two feet six inches deep, and thirty inches diameter. Fill them with the above compost, plant shallow, not deeper than four inches, and cover the roots with grass, or stones, or both. I have covered all mine with a thin layer of clay, to act as an anti-evaporator. If you plant deep, you will get thin wood and no Roses. You must not copy the deep planting of Rose producers. Their circumstances are totally different from yours. They do it in finer soil, in a hotter garden, and before they "bud," the Dog Rose is established. They do it, not because it is good for the Rose, but because it saves stakes and root-covering. When you get the Rose, its roots are mainly gone, and its rind much damaged, and if you plant it, under a weaker sun, as deep as they have done, it will first dwindle and then die. In the April *Florist*, I have done my best to expose this great cause of Rose failure, and have received thanks already from the first amateur in England, and the leader of the national tournament.

Plant in dry weather. Cut out all thin wood. Leave no more than four main branches, and cut these down to three eyes each at most. The top eye must, in all cases, be an outside one. Remove from the centre one of two cross eyes. The difficulty is to widen the head. Centre and upright wood is easily got. It is an axiom, with all Roses, to cut hard when they are removed. Don't "bury," and don't "mortar" your Rose in. Nature never was a "sexton" or a "bricklayer." Had there been no spades, all seeds must have vegetated on the surface, and the rind of trees would have been perfect to the base. Follow nature, and observe how Chestnuts, Oaks, Elms, and Ashes strive to keep their roots at the surface, and they have their rind perfect to the base. In sultry weather, water slowly and copiously, once a week,—a sprinkling is of little

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good. Look frequently up through the tree, and remove useless spray. If you wish "specimens," you cannot have "round big heads." You must cut hard, and always with a view to produce good moderate wood. This will keep your tree in repair at the crown base. I have several that have been here for five years, without an atom of unsightly wood. You cannot have quantity and quality. To get a fine specimen, remove two buds out of a cluster of three. Wait, however, till the nibbling is over.

We know little of insect life. The mischief is done, often, before we see or suspect it. Eggs are deposited on the early rising leaf bud; therefore, dress early with yellow sulphur, sulphur vivum, decoction of quassia, tobacco water, and soft soap. "Red ink" has already set in. It is a blight, like red ink pricked in with a fine needle. Besides this, there are other foes,—mildew, rubigo, honeydew, budworm, aphis, bloakpatch, greenstock, and violent whipping winds. Rubigo and this last are my worst foes. The first will finish a Rose for the year, and if delicate, for ever; the last spoils the wood for next year, a thing of the greatest importance. Try and avert these evils, or great will be your chagrin. It is easier to produce Pines and Grapes than first-class Roses. If you mean to go to Brighton for three months, and leave "John the Gardener" to pity and despise animalcules, you will come back to certain disappointment. Yellow sulphur is the remedy in mildew. Lime and soot put on the stock, in winter, with a brush, will nicely clean them from greenstock.

The next difficulty is to meet the show day. I won three prizes, last year; but out of two hundred and twenty Roses, I could only find an average of eighteen for each day. What chance will you have then with a neglected three dozen? In order to "nick" the day, you must learn to hasten a bud and retard a bud; you must hood a Rose, tie down a bloom in the daytime, cover it with ivy leaves, let it up again at night. Well, the show day is all but come. At three in the morning, a voice cries "lopes." This you don't hear. Then comes a small pebble against your window. This, with another "lopes," wakes you. You must get up at once. Cut your best blooms while the dew is on them. You must put them in your Crystal Palace box (regulation size), with its tin pipes filled with water, and wedged in with damp green moss. You must cover your box with a wet cloth, get into the train,—not into the coupe, it is too near the fire, nor into the last carriage, for the rails may be slippery and the "express" due, but into a cold windy second class,—and then you must "cab" to the show room, where you and I shall find two hundred lots better far than our own. Hoping we may be more successful another time,

Yours truly,

W. F. RADCLYFFE.

*Rushton Rectory.*

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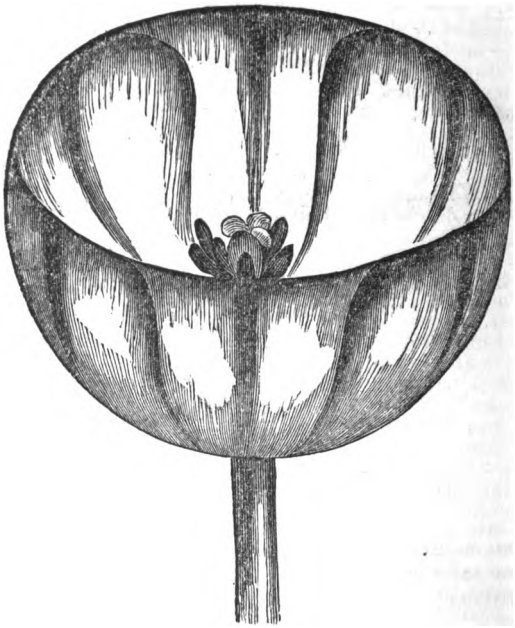
# Properties of the Tulip.

AT page 173, will be found an article on the properties of the Tulip. This, we are happy to say, has been greatly appreciated by our numerous readers. We now give two illustrations, from the *Florists' Guide*, to enable them the better to understand the properties.



Extreme depth—one-half of a hollow ball.

A lady asks what are breeders, and the difference between roses, byblœmens, and bizarres. The following, from the pen of Mr. George Glenny, will answer our fair correspondent. The seedlings, generally, when

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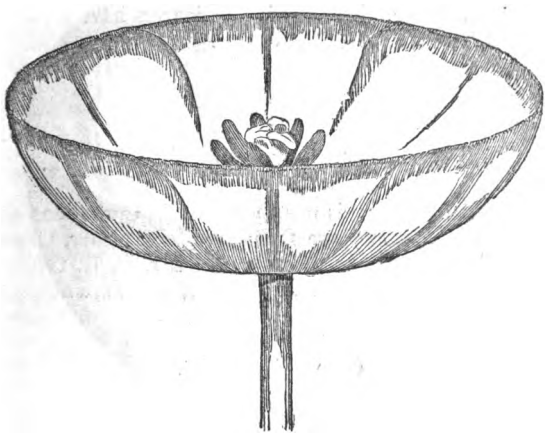
they first bloom, produce flowers without any stripes or markings; a yellow or white bottom, and all the upright portion of the petals self-coloured,—brown, red, purple, scarlet, or rose,—and in this state they have been grown for years without any variegations. They are then called breeders, with what propriety, or for what reason, we are not aware. These breeders are planted every year, until they break into stripes, and if they prove desirable, they are named; but they are so many years, sometimes, before this occurs, that they may



Extreme shallowness—one-third of a hollow ball.

have multiplied greatly in the breeder state, and, as many sales of breeders take place, they may have been distributed in all directions. Each person who has broken one, thinks he has a right to name it, without considering whether it has been broken and named by others, so that we have many in cultivation, under very different names, but which are one and the same thing. There is another peculiarity, which hardly belongs to any other flower. We allude to the great uncertainty of their markings; for, although we may have twenty

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of one kind in a bed, scarcely two will come even nearly alike, although good judges can find enough in them to recognize them in any state. Perhaps this uncertainty gives more than half the charm to Tulip cultivation. Those which are the most certain in their markings or pencillings of colour, are the most valued. Nevertheless, Tulips propagate fast, and a flower worth twenty guineas while there are but half-a-dozen in the world, becomes naturally cheaper as it becomes more plentiful. Roses have a white ground, and crimson, or pink, or scarlet marks. Byblœmens have a white ground, and purple, lilac, or black marks. Bizarres have a yellow ground, and marks of any colour.

## Select Lists of Florists' Flowers.

OUR lists for this month comprise Carnations and Picotees, and are from Mr. John Slater, Cheetham Hill, near Manchester; Mr. R. R. Oswald, Adderly Gardens, near Birmingham; and L., a northern grower.

### CARNATIONS.

#### L.'S LIST.

**SCARLET BIZARRES.**

Easom's Admiral Curzon | Holland's Mr. Ainsworth
Atherton's Fanny Gardiner | Holliday's Lord Rancliffe

**CRIMSON BIZARRES.**

Ely's Lord Milton | Puxley's Jenny Lind
Haines's Black Diamond | Puxley's King of Carnations

**ROSE FLAKES.**

Ely's Lovely Ann | May's Poor Tom
May's Aglaia

**SCARLET FLAKES.**

Headly's Victoria Regina | Hardwick's Firebrand
May's Exit

**PURPLE FLAKES.**

Mansley's Beauty of Woodhouse | May's Ascendant
Milwood's Premier | Netherwood's Companion

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## MR. R. R. OSWALD'S LIST.

### SCARLET BIZARRES.

*Admiral Curzon (Easom) | Sir Joseph Paxton (Ely)
Mr. Peto (Heap) | Mr. Ainsworth (Holland)

### CRIMSON BIZARRES.

*Black Diamond (Haines) | Jenny Lind (Puxley)
Lord Milton (Ely)

### PINK BIZARRES.

*Falconbridge (May) | Sarah Payne (Ward)

### PURPLE FLAKES.

*Earl of Stamford (Elliott) | Premier (Milwood)
Julia (Nicklin)

### SCARLET FLAKES.

*Defiance (Puxley) | Sportsman (Hedderly)
Comet (Kaye)

### ROSE FLAKES.

*Uncle Tom (Bramma) | Lorenzo (May)
Lovely Ann (Ely)

* First in its class.

## MR. J. SLATER'S LIST.

### SCARLET BIZARRES.

Brierley's Music
Easom's Admiral Curzon
Ely's Sir Joseph Paxton
Heap's Peto
Holland's Mr. Ainsworth
Holliday's Lord Rancliffe
Martin's Splendid
Slater's Robin Hood

### PINK OR CRIMSON BIZARRES.

Ely's Lord Milton
Ely's Duke of Bedford
Gill's Lord Goderich
Haines's Black Diamond
Puxley's Jenny Lind
Puxley's King of Carnations
Slater's Warrior

### SCARLET FLAKES.

Chadwick's Ivanhoe
Ely's King of Scarlets
Hardwick's Firebrand
Kay's Splendour
Kay's Magnet
Kay's York and Lancaster
May's Justice Shallow
May's Christopher Sly
May's Exit
Simpson's Queen Victoria
Wilson's William IV.

### ROSE FLAKES.

Barrenger's Apollo
Bramma's Uncle Tom
Brook's Flora's Garland
Elliott's Martha
Ely's Lovely Ann
Ely's Lady Gardiner
Ely's Lady Ely
May's Ariel
May's Lorenzo
May's Poor Tom
May's King John

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PURPLE FLAKES.

| | |
|---|---|
| Brabbin's Squire Meynell | Mansley's Beauty of Woodhouse |
| Ely's Mango | Mansley's Bonny Bess |
| Holland's Earl of Wilton | Milwood's Premier |
| Jackson's Squire Trow | |

## PICOTEES.

### L.'S LIST.

PURPLE.

| | |
|---|---|
| Bayley's Mrs. Dodwell | Fellowes's Haidee |
| Dodwell's Amy Robsart | Marris's Florence Nightingale |
| Eyre's Mrs. Eyre | May's Finis |

RED.

| | |
|---|---|
| Headly's Mrs. Headly | Norman's Mrs. Norman |
| Hoyle's Mrs. Hoyle | Smith's Ada Mary |
| Marris's Prince of Wales | Smith's Lauretta |

ROSE.

| | |
|---|---|
| Barnard's Mrs. Barnard | Marris's Bertha |
| Dodwell's Laura | Smith's Eva |
| Dodwell's Minnie | Turner's Mrs. Pitman |

### MR. R. R. OSWALD'S LIST.

HEAVY PURPLE EDGE.

*Mrs. Bayley (Dodwell) | Countess (Fellowes)
Alfred (Dodwell)

LIGHT PURPLE EDGE.

*Amy Robsart (Dodwell) | Finis (May)
National (Kirtland)

HEAVY RED EDGE.

*Sultana (Turner) | Dr. Pitman (Turner)
Mrs. Lochner (Turner)

LIGHT RED EDGE.

*Eugenia (Turner) | Miss Holbeck (Kirtland)
Rosetta (Turner)

HEAVY ROSE EDGE.

*Queen Victoria (Green) | Alice (Hoyle)
Venus (Headly)

LIGHT ROSE EDGE.

Bertha (Marris) | Mrs. Turner (Dodwell)
Mrs. Barnard (Barnard)

* First in its class.

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## MR. J. SLATER'S LIST.

### PURPLE.

| | |
|---|---|
| Bayley's Duke of Devonshire, h. | Fellowes's Prince Arthur, h. |
| | Fellowes's Countess, h. |
| Dodwell's Alfred, h. | Fellowes's Haidee, l. |
| Dodwell's Amy Robsart, l. | Matthews's Bridesmaid, l. |
| Dodwell's Annot Lyle, l. | May's Finis, l. |
| Dodwell's Mrs. Bayley, h. | Norman's Lord Nelson, h. |

### RED.

| | |
|---|---|
| Bayley's Esther, h. | Norman's James II., h. |
| Brinkler's Duch. of Bedford, l. | Smith's Lauretta |
| Hardman's Poor Jack | Smith's Ada Mary |
| Headly's Prince Albert, h. | Turner's Mrs. Kelke, l. |
| Hoyle's Mrs. Hoyle, h. | Turner's Rosetta, l. |
| Kirtland's Miss Holbeck | Turner's Eugenia, l. |
| Marris's Prince of Wales, h. | Turner's Dr. Pitman, h. |
| Norman's Mrs. Norman, h. | Turner's Sultana |

### ROSE.

| | |
|---|---|
| Barnard's Mrs. Barnard, l. | Marris's Bertha |
| Dodwell's Lizzie, l. | Marris's Unexpected, h. |
| Dodwell's Mrs. Turner | Marris's Victoria Regina, h. |
| Green's Queen Victoria, h. | Smith's Eva |
| Headly's Venus | Turner's Ariel, l. |
| Hoyle's Alice, h. | Turner's Lady Grenville, h. |
| Jackson's Mrs. Crowe | Turner's Mrs. Drake, h. |

# My Greenhouse.

GERANIUMS.—I can look round now, and see the great variety which may be recognized among Geraniums, or Pelargoniums, whichever the reader pleases, and especially notice the divisions which everybody now recognizes, to separate the show Geraniums from the fancy kinds, and the fancy sorts from the bedding out stuff. It would seem difficult to produce any that are not very decided. I have, among the show varieties, Emperor, in the finest order imaginable. I have grown it without sticks, and there are not twenty trusses of bloom on the plant, but every truss is worth twenty, grown as the professional exhibiters show them. The flower is twice as large as my neighbour has produced them on his fellow plant, but then, he has twice as many trusses. In size, his specimen beats mine, but he has neither foliage nor flowers half as large. I mention the Emperor because, upon one authority alone, I paid an extravagant price for it, and I have



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not regretted it. I think with the party whose opinion guided me, it was the best Mr. Beck had then raised; but he has, perhaps, still advanced. Upon the same recommendation, I bought Gertrude Richardson, a fancy variety. A very pretty dark flower, with light edge round all the petals, which are smooth, well laid, unlike most of my others in colour, and, moreover, the habit is good. I mention these because I seldom indulge in the purchase of flowers, the first season, and for once I have been successful. Then I come to another family, the bedding out sorts. My best scarlet is Little David, more dwarf and spreading than Tom Thumb, with less trusses, but more of them; but this is too cheap to be a matter of interest now. Taking the Geraniums throughout, my best, just now, are Lady Paxton, Conqueror, Emperor, Eclipse, General Williams, King of Scarlets, Mr. White, Matilda, Marvellous, Rubens, Selim, Saracen, Viola, Arethusa, Gem of the West, Carlos, and Admirable. To prolong the bloom, I have a gauze covering; for if the bees and flies get to work upon them, the bloom is destroyed rapidly.

Cinerarias.—My Cinerarias are very pretty, and I have a good collection. The best of all is Brilliant. Many are more striking in colour, but the flower is one of the most perfect of the whole family. The gradual advance of this flower towards perfection is manifest every year; but a bad system of showing has been adopted, for the purpose of enabling the dealers to beat their customers, namely, that of keeping back improved varieties, to show themselves, while the public are obliged to show varieties much older. Now the Metropolitan Society of Florists had a rule that *no flower or plant should be shown in collection* until it had been catalogued and fairly sold out one season. It is only right and proper that whatever is exclusively in one man's possession, shall be prohibited from being exhibited, *except as such, and by itself.* The showing of novelties in collection is one of those crafty and shuffling tricks by which some dealers keep up their superiority over those who cannot obtain the novelty, and horticultural societies ought, in justice to the mass of exhibiters, to exclude from general competition every thing held back from the public. I could have produced, at the Park, Cinerarias equally well grown and bloomed with the winning flowers, but, as there were better varieties in one man's hands than I could produce, I would not attempt to show against them, nor can anybody else. But, until horticultural societies do their duty, and forbid the showing of anything in collection but what the public may possess, there can be no fair competition.

Azaleas are now in first-rate condition. Some of the plants shoot the new branches beyond the flowers, which are thereby half concealed. This, however, is easily cured. As soon as the young shoots push, break them off, for they will strike root, if potted in light soil; and if they are not removed, the

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bloom is hidden and the effect destroyed for the season, but if removed, the plant breaks after the bloom is over, and is infinitely better for it.

Chorozemas are blooming. Deutzia gracilis is in fine order. Hovea Celsii is one of the prettiest things in the house, although somewhat the worse for the last week, that is, a little past its prime. Eriostemon buxifolium, with its snow-white flowers, is in the best possible order, and Pimelia Hendersonii just opening.

I find it absolutely necessary to go over the pots daily, to see which wants water, for it is dangerous to neglect them ever so short a time, and nearly as dangerous to give it when not wanted. I find plenty to do now, in potting off cuttings that have rooted, and shifting all the young plants from one sized pot to another. The Camellias have completed their growth, and I shall turn them into the open ground, in shade and shelter, with all the Acacias and others that have gone out of bloom. I have kept the house closed early in the afternoon and late in the morning, during the prevalence of the east wind, with the greatest advantage, for my plants look a better colour than my neighbour's, which have been exposed earlier and later.

## Culture of Tender Azaleas.

[Continued from page 151.]

SUPPOSING cuttings of these have been inserted as directed, at the beginning of June, or at the latest, before the 12th, and that the emission of roots has been successful, by the beginning of August, the cuttings will have advanced sufficiently for potting off; but it is better that they be rather fully rooted than the contrary, because, if potted off before they are well rooted, they receive a check, amounting almost to a delay in their growth equal to the time requisite for propagation, a check too at a period when every hour is of advantage in obtaining for the young plants all the

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growth possible, before the dull and inactive season sets in, when plants that have been potted late in the autumn are exposed to all the dangers which beset plants insufficiently prepared for a period of low temperature, during the winter months. Never allow the cuttings to remain in the cutting pots, after they have become plants. For the young plants from the cutting pots, I use thumb or two-inch pots, with plenty of draining material, succeeded by a stratum of rough fibry peat. After shaking or washing off all the soil, and particularly the silver sand, in which the cuttings were inserted, the plants are placed in these pots, in a compost of one-half fibry peat, one fourth light sandy loam, rather inclining to peat, and one-fourth clean silver sand. The soil was exposed to a winter's frost and summer's sun, before it was used, and the light sandy loam frequently subjected to liberal waterings with the drainings from a sheep-yard, with a considerable quantity of the dung mixed with it, the whole being frequently turned over, and having been put under cover, in a back shed, it was in a healthy state, and charged with all the properties necessary for a healthy development of growth, to whatever it might be applied. A slight watering is given after potting, and the plants are returned to the frame in which they were struck, plunged in the material in the frame, placed near the glass, kept close (occasionally allowing the useless moisture to escape), shaded in close hot weather, and sprinkled with soft water, from a fine rose, or syringe, two or three times a week, if the weather be clear, but if it is dull or damp, no sprinkling will be necessary. When the plants have taken to the new soil, the frame, which has hitherto had its inclination northward, may be turned to the opposite direction, and the plants arranged inside accordingly; but should the weather be clear, the young plants will not be strong enough to bear the mid-day sun of September, and shading, during the hottest part of the day, will be useful, but plenty of air may be given, to strengthen them. The watering pot must be but little used at this time, the

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utmost care being required to secure maturity of growth, before winter. When the dull damp weather arrives, and renders the cutting frame unfit for the young plants, the greenhouse is the best place for them, taking care to use no more water than is necessary to keep the soil in a healthy state. In this situation they remain till about the middle of January, when they are removed to a vinery, which is shut up and about to be forced. Here the young Azaleas are plunged in a pit, in front of the house, in material affording a nice gentle bottom heat. Little water is given, until they start into growth, when it is more liberally supplied; but a too liberal hand should be kept from the watering pot at any time, and especially at this stage of their growth, which I consider the most critical of their existence. The conditions most fatal to them are, too excitable a temperature at first starting the plants into growth, after propagation, and too great a supply of water when the plants are young; but, of all opposing practices, that of placing such plants near hot water pipes or flues, where they are exposed to sudden changes of wet and drought, is, I think, the most hurtful, and it is almost as bad to keep them in too close an atmosphere. I do not mean that they are to be exposed at this time to direct currents of cold air, but it is to be hoped that a better system of ventilation renders this practice impossible. When the plants have started into growth, they receive a shift into three-inch pots, or, if they are strong and well established, into four-inch pots, well drained, using soil as before, but of a rather rougher character. The side shoots are pinched off, two or three eyes from the stem, and these fastened down by pegs lay the foundation of the future specimens. The plants are returned to the pit, in the early vinery, and plunged to the rims of the pots in a healthy bottom heat. They receive a slight watering, to settle the soil, and are occasionally sprinkled overhead with soft water, of the same temperature as the house; and as they become established in these pots, weak manure water is applied, both overhead and at the roots. As it is



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necessary to obtain a somewhat close atmosphere in the vinery, during the flowering of the Vines, the young Azaleas are removed into a second house, with a lower temperature, where they can have more air and light, and still have the advantage of bottom heat. Under this treatment, they will grow rapidly, and another shift, into six-inch pots, may be given, as they are observed to require more pot-room. About the beginning of June, those in six-inch pots may be removed from the house, and plunged into a gentle bottom heat, in a pit or frame, where they can receive more attention,—shading in bright sunny weather, syringing with soft water, and shutting up early, with frequent applications of weak manure water, and if this is discharged overhead, with the syringe, so much the better. Towards the end of July, some of the plants that were first put into the six-inch pots may require a shift into a size larger, but if they are intended for blooming the following season, they must remain in the six-inch pots, and have all the air possible, to mature the growth. If not intended for blooming next season, a shift into a size larger pot, well drained, will be of service. They must be kept close for a fortnight, and then exposed to the air as much as possible. During this growing period, stopping the side shoots is necessary. As winter approaches, remove the plants to the greenhouse, give plenty of air, and but little water.

[To be continued.]

GEORGE TAYLOR.

*Danson, Bexley, Kent.*

## The Orchid House.

THERE is no family in the vegetable kingdom containing so great a number of extremely beautiful, fragrant, and singular-looking plants as that of the Orchids, and they have, in consequence, become so fashionable, that it is by no means uncom-

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mon to find one or more glass structures in a garden establishment devoted exclusively to their culture. Hitherto the great objection to their more general cultivation has been the idea that they could only be grown in a very high and moist temperature, but, as they become better known, it is found that while some of the varieties will succeed only under those conditions, there are a great number of others, quite enow for all ordinary purposes, that may be made to grow in a temperature but little above that required for the greenhouse, and without that incessant attention which the maintenance of a high humid temperature requires I will now offer a few general remarks on their treatment.

To those who intend growing these plants with the greatest possible success, and who are desirous of maintaining a regular succession of bloom, the use of two separate houses is indispensable,—one to be devoted to the growing and flowering plants, the other to those which are in a state of rest, and would be injured by the moisture necessary for the growing plants. Where only those varieties which succeed in a lower temperature are grown, a dry greenhouse will be found to supply the place of a second house. It may, perhaps, at the outset, be alarming to many parties, to refer to so many houses as being required for these plants; but, in truth, there is no cause for alarm, for, beyond the heating apparatus, which might be a branch from that which warms some other structure, they do not require expensive erections. A low, flat, span-roofed house, with opaque walls, and glass only for the roof, is sufficient to grow them in successfully, although such houses do not look quite so well as those which have upright sashes of glass at least on one side. It will thus be seen that a mere pit, the least expensive of all plant erections, will supply all the means for cultivating these plants with facility and success; and such being the case, the provision of two structures is divested of the idea of extravagant expenditure, and is brought within the means of all who can in any way afford to cultivate exotic plants. Having noticed the desirable-

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ness of two houses, it may be proper to state some of the reasons which may be urged in favour of this arrangement. All, or the greater part of the tropical Orchids are found in situations where the seasons are strongly marked by humidity at one time and drought at another. These humid and dry periods cannot be combined in a single house, and to have the house alternately dry and moist, would limit the cultivator to such species as grow and flower at the same time of the year, while, during the resting period, he would have no bloom whatever. The manner of employing two houses is to remove the plants to the dry house, as soon as they have matured their pseudo-bulbs or stems; but this must not be quite general, as some of the species flower immediately after making their growth, and, of course, do not sink into rest till the bloom is past. These should be kept in the moist house till the flowers are ready to expand, by which they will be larger, and if they are then removed to the dry house, the flowers will be more brilliant and remain longer in perfection, and the scent will be more powerful, than if they had remained in the moist atmosphere. When the bloom is over, the plants should remain in the dry house, till they show signs of growth, when they must be removed to the moist house, to secure a vigorous growth, and again undergo the same routine. The growing periods are very different, in different varieties, some commencing in February or March, and others in every month, up to October or November. The time required to perfect their growth is also various, some taking six weeks, and others nearly six months; so that almost constantly some plants will require removing from one house to the other. Those species which do not flower as soon as they have perfected their bulbs should remain in the dry house, till they show signs of flowering, when they may be taken to the other, till they are ready to expand. All the plants, as soon as the flower stem is perceived, should be kept in the moist house, while the buds are growing, as, by this means, they come larger and in finer proportion; but the

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expansion of the flower should always take place in the cool house, in order to increase the intensity of both colour and fragrance. The temperature of the growing house may range from sixty to sixty-five degrees, by day, and from five to ten degrees lower, by night, and there should be no more moisture than the air will take up, if the pathways and walls are constantly damp. The comparatively dry or resting house should range about fifty-five degrees by day and fifty by night, with somewhat less moisture, though the term dry is by no means to be considered as implying the entire absence of wet. The latter house will be a suitable place for growing those species which thrive in a cooler temperature than the other. Those parties who grow a limited collection in one small house, and who cannot, therefore, remove the plants from a moist to a dry atmosphere, or the reverse, must endeavour so to regulate the application of moisture that the plants may experience something of the same kind of alternation, at the different periods referred to. This may in a great measure be done by keeping all the resting plants together, at one end of the house, and keeping that end as dry as possible.

The worst insect enemies which infest Orchids are the cockroaches, which often, where they abound, spoil a young shoot or flower stem in a single night. They may be destroyed in the following manner. Get some twigs, a few inches long, take off the bark, point one end, to insert in the soil, and cover the other by dipping it in a composition of a quarter of a pound of spermacetti and two ounces of arsenic, melted and well mixed together. This composition will remain on the sticks for months, and the insects feeding on the spermacetti are poisoned by the arsenic. A small American ant, which also infests them, is destroyed by the same means. The woodlouse is, next to the cockroach, the worst enemy these plants have in the insect form. They are trapped by a number of contrivances, all designed to produce a sheltered retreat, to which the insects resort during the daytime. Hollow tubes, open at one end,

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formed of bean stalks, or the hollow stalks of any other plants, are laid among the pots and plants, for this purpose; but whatever form of trap is employed, they should be examined every morning, and the insects collected in them destroyed.

JOHN THOMPSON.

*St. Lawrence, Jersey.*

## Cultivation of Celery.

SOW about the 1st of March, in a large seed pan, place it in heat, and when large enough to handle, prick out the plants into boxes. Mine are about two feet long, fifteen inches wide, and five inches deep. First put in four inches of good rotten dung, pat it down with a spade, or trowel, and cover it with an inch of soil, prick in the plants about four inches apart, and again place them in heat, until they are five or six inches high; then begin to harden off, by removing them to a cold frame, and keeping it close for a few days; then give air gradually, increasing it daily, until they will bear exposure in the daytime, but still protect at night. If carefully attended to, they will be strong stiff plants by the 20th of May. Then make a trench, fifteen inches wide and ten inches deep, leave the bottom of it well trodden down, fill in four inches of well-rotted dung, tread it well, and then, with a trowel, cut out the plants entire, in squares of four inches, place them on the top of the dung, and fill up nearly level with dung, making it firm, and add an inch of soil on the manure, water it well, and the plants will begin to grow at once. After about ten days, begin with liquid manure, obtained from the drainage of a dunghill, give a good soaking of it, about twice a week, but be careful it does not touch the plants. I water over the foliage with clean water, after applying the liquid, in case of any splashes, &c. Allow the plants to grow to a good size, before com-

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mencing earthing up, as water cannot then be given. If earthed up, as required, it will be ready for use early. I have had it for table by the 21st of August, and in the second week in September, I have exhibited it three feet eight inches in length, and weighing six pounds and a half per root. This was white Celery, called Bossom's Champion of England; the largest and best red sort I have grown is Laing's Mammoth. My reasons for leaving the bottom of the trench solid are, that it holds the liquid manure better, and prevents the tap roots from striking downwards, which, if allowed to grow, and the seed be sown too early, causes it to run to seed.

AN AMATEUR.

## My Stove, or Hothouse.

THERE is one comfort about a stove, we may be careless when we sow a seed, or commence any other operation. It is summer all the year round, and we bring all manner of subjects to grow how we please My stove happens to be pretty well furnished with Gloxinias, Achimenes, Gesnerias, and a few Orchids, but I frequently introduce plants that wise-acres tell us have no business there. I think a few flowers or a little fruit out of season is very tempting. For instance, just now, I am picking Raspberries, and have been for more than three weeks: will anybody give a good reason why I should not indulge my fancy? Then again, I have Cucumber plants running up the rafters, without doing any injury to the plants: can anybody tell me why I ought not to have such things? True it is, that with a fine collection of stove plants, the hands and mind are pretty well engaged, in keeping every thing in good order; but my stove is something like "the cobbler's stall, that served him for parlour, and kitchen, and all." It is my forcing house, my

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Orchid house, my vinery and pinery, for I do a little in every thing. I use it for every thing, and so far as I have yet observed, every thing does well in it. Many plants, which are catalogued as greenhouse plants, flourish better in a stove. I will instance Abutilon striatum, venosum, and pictum grandiflorum. I have grown Venosum for years, on the back wall of my stove. Pictum grandiflorum is every way the same in habit, but has very much larger flowers and foliage. I do not mean to say it will not grow in the greenhouse. My practice belies this, for I grow it even out-of-doors, as well as in the greenhouse; but the plant in the stove grows faster, blooms better, looks greener. In short, it grows most handsome in the stove. The new Abutilon pictum grandiflorum is as large in the flower as a small Tulip, and the leaves have seven lobes, instead of five. It is every way larger and more striking. I have mentioned it once before, both as a stove and a greenhouse plant, and I regard it as adapted for both, but particularly for an intermediate conservatory. Gloxinias and Achimenes, so far as mine are concerned, want shifting into larger pots, for they must not be cramped, if you want fine flowers. They soon fill their pots with roots, if they are growing well. Orchids are doing well in the front of the stove, much shaded by the Vine. Franciscea latifolia is in fine flower; but, if the wet from syringing touches the flower, it is spoiled. F. Hopeana is not so gay, but it is fragrant, to make amends for its smaller flowers. Last summer, I planted out a Brugmansia Knightii, and it bloomed in the open ground. When it was done, I potted it up, pruned the roots, that it might take a smaller pot, and it is now an inmate of my stove, and growing so luxuriantly, that I shall let it flower there, and put out a plant half the size, to bloom out-of-doors. I keep my temperature up to from sixty to sixty-five degrees, by night, and when it gets up to seventy-five, by day, I give air, to keep it from getting too high, which it will do, if closed when the sun is out; and in the evening, I syringe every thing that has no flowers

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to spoil. I have made a rule that neither heat nor moisture shall fail, for the redspider will never trouble us, if these are properly kept up. I have, among other things, been potting twelve Raspberry canes, to see how they would behave in the stove. I have gathered ripe fruit from the 1st of May, generally about four dozen at a picking. They are Carter's Prolific, and grow quite as large fruit in-doors as out. These little experiments make a stove highly amusing.

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## Strawberries.

MANY papers on the cultivation of this highly esteemed fruit have appeared in the *Midland Florist*, but, as there are constant accessions to its readers, a line or two may not be unacceptable to some of them. First, then, as to the preparation of the plants. As the old stock will now be making runners, select a sufficient number of the strongest, procure some large sixty-sized pots, plunge them in the bed, fill them with good rich soil, and fasten the runners into them, with small pegs. Take off all other strings or runners that may be made from those in the pots, to get all the strength possible into the plants. Should the weather prove dry, a good soaking of water, every day or two, will very much assist them in rooting. As soon as the plants are strong and well rooted, they may be set in the ground they are intended to fruit in. The soil best suited for Strawberries is a nice rich loam, but they are not so particular as to soil as some people appear to think. Previous to planting, the ground should be well dug, a good spit deep, and a good dressing of well rotted manure be put in. The soil cannot well be made too rich. Put in the plants two feet apart in the row, and two feet from row to row, or three feet, every alternate row, will not be found too much, as it will leave room for an alley. When they are planted,



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give a good watering, to settle the soil about the roots, and, during the summer and autumn, a good supply of liquid manure will be found beneficial, the object being to get the plants as strong as possible, before winter. All runners should be removed as they appear, and the ground stirred with the hoe, to keep down weeds. I generally find it best to make new plantations every year, so as to be enabled to destroy them when they are three years old at the most. If the above directions are attended to, the plants will not fail to produce a good crop the first year after planting. Of the sorts best worth growing, the Black Prince is the earliest; but I do not say grow many of this variety, for it is not to be depended on in setting. Keen's Seedling is the next in earliness, and one of the best, for all purposes. British Queen, for size and richness of flavour, and is a great bearer, when well managed. Filbert, or Myatt's Seedling, great bearer, fine flavour, large, and very handsome. In my opinion, the best Strawberry grown. Elton Pine, late, rather acid. Elenor, large, late, a great bearer, acid. Sir C. Napier, very large, but worthless in flavour.

WILLIAM SHIPLEY.

*Heywood Gardens, Westbury, Wilts.*

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# Thoughts on the Ranunculus,

FOR JUNE.

BY the time these lines meet the eyes of your readers, the crowning season of the Ranunculus will have arrived. We cannot, with certainty, foresee a day, yet it is alike the duty and the pleasure of the florist ever to be looking onward. The only grounds for safe speculation on the future, is an observance of the present and a remembrance of the past. Of the present (May 17), we can report rather favourable and promising appearances. The foliage is

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healthy, and a few of the early sorts, as Glenelg, Esther, Agio, Berinus, Miss Horner, &c. show an average number of good flower buds, about an inch above the crown of the plants. Three or four frosts occurred between the 1st and the 8th of May, but the nights were pretty dry, and little injury appears to have been sustained; so that our expectations for June are somewhat bright and pleasing. In going over the beds, notice should be taken of any disposition to crack, in the soil, and holes near the necks of the plants, and the surface must be slightly stirred and made firm. A small hand-hook will be found a useful tool, between the rows of plants, but the movement must be shallow, or the use of such an instrument will be detrimental. A few nice showers have fallen, in Berkshire, this week, but should June prove dry, in its opening days, a judicious application of manure water, between the plants, will prove beneficial, and if accompanied with shade, for a season, the effects of the watering will be doubly advantageous. It may be hoped that *June* prospects, this year, will invite and secure daily attention, in sheltering, weeding, thinning superfluous flower buds, marking and correcting sorts, and issue in a bloom that will recompense the cultivator for his outlay, industry, and skill.

CAREY TYSO.

*Wallingford.*

## Our Miscellany.

THE AMERICAN GARDEN, AT CREMORNE.—There is, just now, one of the most gorgeous collections of Rhododendrons that was ever got together, planted in a beautifully laid out garden, occupying a space of forty thousand square feet, and comprising the most rare and splendid varieties in Europe. The plan of the garden, all of which is under canvass, in a noble pavilion, was laid down by Mr. Milner, of the Crystal

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Palace, quite in the Italian style, and we can hardly say too much for the artist or the plants. Whole beds of such as Atrosanguinea, which is blood red, and Catawbiense album elegans, which is white, with green spots, and grand specimens of almost every variety worth growing, probably—for we can only guess—ten thousand plants, present such a mass of different coloured bloom, that none but those who have seen it can form an idea of the effect. We should think that about the middle of the month, when all will be in full flower, it would be worth coming from the most remote corners of the United Kingdom, to witness it, and hundreds will come from the Continent. Of course there are other plants, such as Kalmias, various Coniferæ, Azaleas, and so forth, but the Rhododendrons are the principal attraction. Cremorne Gardens are essentially a place for gardeners, and, under the able superintendence of Mr. Smithers, late of the Zoological Gardens, Regent's Park, are now in higher condition than ever.

"FLOWERS OR NO FLOWERS?" said the cottager to the committee-man. "As many flowers as you please, my friend. If you are fond of them, grow them; they are very little trouble, if you do not grow for exhibition; but if you grow them to show, they want great attention, and those which look beautiful in the garden, would be useless at a show. Florists' flowers are very costly; but to the passer-by, they are not one jot better than ordinary border flowers. Spend the money that they would cost on comforts for the wife and children, and the attention they want upon useful vegetables."—G. G.

IMPORTANT TO JUDGES.—At the Barnsley county court, the other day, a florist brought an action against the Peniston floral society, to recover the sum of one pound, which had been awarded him as a prize, for eighteen Dahlias. It was subsequently found that the blooms were not dissimilar, and the committee declined paying over the amount, on the ground that the Dahlias

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were not shown in accordance with the society's rules. The judge, however, gave it as his opinion, that the society were bound by the decision of their own judges, and found a verdict for the plaintiff.

## Correspondence on Roses.

WE have received another communication from Mr. Appleby, but a large amount of correspondence, which must have insertion this month, precludes our giving the whole of it. He says, to extend much the discussion on Roses, would neither be useful nor entertaining to the readers of the *Midland Florist*, but if I say nothing, it may be thought that I am convinced and silenced by what has been advanced. Mr. Davies but little more than reiterates what he has before advanced, and I can do little more than repeat what I have already said. The readers of the *Midland Florist* have both sides of the question before them, and must judge for themselves. Mr. D. is quite wrong in presuming that I had come to the conclusion that he was wilfully misleading. If he will read my communication, he will see that I disclaim the idea at the outset. The Rose Gloire de Dijon is as rampant a grower as any Noisette, and, like them, the more it is cut, the less it will bloom. It must make but poor progress, if it is three months, in the middle of summer, from the time of pruning, coming into bloom, and if J. W. expects, with such management, to have his plants in bloom on the 12th of August, and not at any other time, I am afraid he will be disappointed. With regard to the hardiness of this Rose, Mr. D. says that I misunderstood his meaning; that he did not mention it in particular, but along with five others, and that they require shelter or protection in winter. If he did not consider it of the same delicate nature as those others, why did he class it with them, and say they required protection? Mr. D. then refers to Noisettes, and asks if certain sorts, which he names, are tender? I answer yes; in a hard winter, I have had scores of established plants of three of the sorts he names killed. The others I don't grow, because they are not worth growing. What does Mr. D. prove with regard to the Brier, by alluding to the bed of Geant des Batailles? Why, that the Geant, on the Brier, even in a bed of richly prepared soil, will not grow half so well as on its own roots. I take it for granted that it was a richly prepared bed, or the plants on their own roots would not have made such shoots as he describes; and he proves that in soil not so rich, the Geant, on its own roots, would still be vigorous, and, no doubt, covered with flowers,



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large and fine; but, on the Brier, in the same ordinary soil, it would be a dwarf, instead of a giant, and, although the flowers might be numerous, they would be small and poor. Since the first appearance of Geant des Batailles, I have seen some thousands of splendidly grown plants, on Manetti stocks, and I have seen an occasional shoot, the first year from the bud, without a flower, but such an instance is very rare indeed. A word in regard to Mr. Davies's loss of Hybrid Perpetuals, on their own roots, in the winter of 1854-5. It is no proof in favour of the Brier, for there is no doubt they would have shared the same fate on that stock. It is well known that thousands of Roses, both standards and dwarfs, were killed; so many indeed as to raise the price, even of old sorts, for two years afterwards. Therefore the credit cannot all be given to the Brier, for after success. Roses worked on any stock are more liable to be killed by hard frost, or to die from any other cause, than when on their own roots.

THOMAS APPLEBY.

*Rose Mount Nursery, York.*

# Opinions on Flowers, &c.

**At the suggestion of several of our correspondents, we have arranged with the most competent judges to give opinions on flowers, and therefore invite our friends to send their subjects for inspection. Mr. John Dobson, Woodlands Nurseries, Isleworth, will give opinions on Cinerarias, Fuchsias, Calceolarias, Pansies, Verbenas, and Geraniums. Mr. Hepworth, of Hendries Gardens, Lea Bridge Road, Leyton, Essex, will receive Tulips, Auriculas, and Polyanthus Mr. George Glenny, Fulham; Mr. Walker, of Winton, near Manchester; and ourselves will give opinions on any other plant or subject connected with floriculture. All letters must be prepaid, and a request to be noticed in the *Midland Florist* should accompany each communication, which should not be later than the 18th of the month, if intended to be noticed in the following number.**

C. K.—Nine pips of seedling Polyanthuses, from Cobden and Uncle Tom. Four of these seem very promising. Fine petal, colour good, lacing pretty well; but by being pressed so close in a letter, and the post mark also having much damaged them, I am unable to pass a correct opinion. It would be much better if parties would be at the trouble of packing pips or blooms of flowers in small boxes, with a little cotton wool. Subjects could then be noticed as they ought to be.

J. C., *Falkirk.*—Tin case, containing two trusses of seedling Auriculas, came safe to hand, and in good order. No. 1, grey edge, a first-class variety, and no mistake. Thrum and tube good, eye beautifully round and fine, body or ground colour clear, solid, and nearly black; nice round petal, with rose edge;

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eye, body, and edge, nearly equal in breadth. No. 2, grey or nearly green edge, very promising. Tube and thrum good, eye quite circular, body colour solid dark purple, but petal not so round and smooth as the other variety. Since receiving the above, another tin box has come safe to hand. It contained another fine grey-edged seedling, one stem bearing nine large pips, nearly equal in size. It is a rare thing to see so many pips in one truss of an Auricula. This I should say is also a first-class flower. Tube aad thrum good, eye extremely fine and round, body or ground colour solid and nearly black, with fine petal and plenty of edge. The first and last of these three varieties will please any grower, and No. 2 is superior to many sorts already out.—JOHN HEPWORTH.

## Notes and Queries.

I HAVE stopped my Chrysanthemums once, I have given them a second shift, into thirty-sixes, I have pegged them down to the rims of the pots, the shoots are about five inches long. Should I stop them again? Should the next shoots be pegged down? and should they likewise be once stopped?—A. F. A.——A. F. A.'s plants must be doing well, to throw laterals five inches, after the first stop. Stop again immediately, and continue pegging down. Don't trouble about the centre, it is sure to fill up. If the next laterals grow five more inches, before the middle of July, give them the last stop. In a month's time, put them into eight-inch pots. They will be splendid plants by the middle of November, if well supplied with plain and manure water. We shall be happy again to hear how the plants are progressing, and give our practical opinion to A. F. A.—S. BROOME, F.H.S.

Could you, or some of your correspondents give, in an early number, the necessary information to enable a subscriber to cultivate a few varieties of Lilium lancifolium.—J. V.

SHADE FOR A GREENHOUSE.—JOHN BURROUS.—The most complete is canvass, on a roller, which, in the event of dull weather, can be rolled up in a few seconds, and as quickly let down, when the sun comes out. The canvass may be light, but it must be good. It will last for years, with care. There should be a small roof, at the top of the house, to keep the blind dry, when it is drawn up, and care should be taken to dry it, before it is drawn up for any lengthened time. A straight roller, a little longer than the house, has a wooden wheel at each end, and in these wheels there should be a groove, deep enough for a line to lie in, without slipping over. The roller being fastened

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to the lower end of the blind or cloth, one end of each rope is made fast to the top of the house, and being but in the grooves of the wheels, the other ends go through a pulley, but as it would require two people to pull at the same time, if the ropes remained at each end of the house, one rope traverses the whole length, and goes through the pulley at the other end, which is made double for that purpose, so that the ends of the ropes are both at the same place. By letting the ropes go, the roller runs down the roof, unrolling the cloth as it goes, and when not required, you have only to pull up the roller with both ropes, at the end where they meet, close into its place, under the little roof, and fasten the lines, to prevent it running down again. With this contrivance, you can shade and uncover, by letting down or rolling up, in a minute. This is the plan adopted for the roofs of Tulip houses, and it is quite as necessary to provide the same convenience for greenhouses, or conservatories, for it greatly prolongs the bloom of all plants, and a house (take Edington's, of Duke-street, London Bridge) accustomed to such business, has canvass of all textures, woven on purpose, for it requires to be good, however thin, and if the small covering, to protect it from wet, when rolled up, be sound, it need not be taken down in winter. I have tried all ways, and found this the most economical in the long run. When they are fitted up inside the house, the fixing is more expensive. I am confirmed in my opinion that whitening the glass is wrong, though resorted to by many people. It is not only troublesome and dirty, but it deprives the plants of light, when there is a great want of it. Haythorn's net is first-rate, for fruit trees on walls. It should be put on before they bloom, and only be taken off while they are thinned, or summer pruned, for it is as good to keep off the burning sun as to ward off frost, but it is not fit for shading a greenhouse. Tiffany? No; you want something to wear well.—G.

Camellia Japonica may be excited when they are making their growth, but not when the bloom has set. Therefore all shifting to larger pots is better done while they are growing, and if it be inconvenient to shift them, liquid manure may be given once in four times watering. But there are many sorts of liquid manure; a good shovelful of well rotted dung, in ten gallons of water, well stirred for a day or two, and then the clear water used, makes an excellent liquid manure, but it should never be given to any plant that is at rest.

Your correspondent, J. W., asks where he can get a plant of Cox's Orange Pippin. He may get one by applying to Mr. Small, nurseryman, Colnbrook, Bucks. The raiser's address I do not know.—Charles Ellis.

Errata.—Page 193, fifth line from bottom, read *south* wall, instead of *north* wall. Page 194, instead of Double *True* Violet, read Double *Tree* Violet.

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# Calendar of Operations.

AZALEAS.—Plants started in February, will now be in vigorous growth, and must be stopped for the last time, this season, and kept in a moist growing temperature, till the end of the month, when the maturing process must be commenced, by gradually withholding water, and keeping the atmosphere drier. As plants go out of bloom, pick off all decayed flowers and seed vessels. Syringe freely while making their growth, and maintain a moist growing temperature, with plenty of air. Keep a sharp lookout after thrip, and fumigate with tobacco paper. Shade, if necessary.—EDWARD CLEETON, *gardener to E. Holland, Esq., M.P., Dumbleton.*

CARNATIONS AND PICOTEES.—Great care is required, this month, on the part of those who intend to exhibit. The plants begin to spindle and must be tied to the sticks, firmly placed in the pot or bed, and disbudded at the earliest period, as every day this is delayed tends to weaken the crown bud. Dig up the soil carefully, with a small fork, that the roots may be disturbed as little as possible, and top-dress with two-thirds rotten manure, and one-third equal portions of soil and fine powdered marl. Water well, when required.—JOHN SLATER, *Cheetham Hill.*

CHRYSANTHEMUMS.—Specimen plants, for large blooms, are now getting very strong, both in borders and pots, and require strict attention to tying up. Carefully take out the laterals, or side shoots, as soon as they appear, and in doing so, do not injure the foliage, if you can avoid it. A slight watering with liquid manure will help to push them on, especially the pot plants. Should greenfly or mildew appear, recourse must be had to tobacco, soft soap, or sulphur water, not made too strong, and if the head can be dipped into this solution, it will stop it immediately, but if the solution is too stiff for dipping, put it on with a sponge or brush. This should be strictly attended to throughout the year. It often happens with me, when the plants get a little diseased, that, in seeking for insects, the birds peck out the heart of the plant, which does it great injury, as the crown bud is lost, and a lateral seldom produces so fine a flower. Those who prefer quantity to quality of bloom, should attend to stopping and tying out, as soon as the plants show five or six clear joints in the laterals, and should continue stopping up to the end of July, giving liquid manure every day. Border plants should be carefully pegged down when young, it saves so much trouble in tying, and they bloom shorter; but by no means attempt it if they are too strong, as they are sure to snap off at the shoulder. If they have been neglected, tie them up and stop them. Open the centre well

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If four or five in a bunch, the middle is sure to fill up. Serve border Pompones the same. Put in plenty of cuttings of each. They will be found very useful in the autumn. Slightly fork up the surface of the borders, round the plants, to prevent the rain running off the roots. Break the crust of the pots, and if any open round the edges, fill up the cracks with a little fine earth.—S. Broome, F.H.S., *Temple Gardens.*

Cinerarias.—The beauty of the Cineraria will be over by the beginning of the month, and those who desire to save seed must give daily attention to secure it. The plants should receive less water, and the flowers should be kept quite dry. Those that have done flowering, may be cut back to within about three inches of the pot, and either placed in a shady situation, or, which is better, planted out in a shady border, to induce them to throw some strong side shoots, for cuttings, and when these are long enough, they should be inserted round the edge of a pot, and put in a close frame, to strike. Keep them, after they are rooted, constantly moving. They like a cool shady place, and must be carefully attended to with water. Stop them often and keep them close to the glass. By this means, you may have handsome bushes. Seed may be sown, if not previously done, and for succession, may be continued to the end of the month. The following are a few of the most distinct and striking varieties exhibited at the Regent's Park, May 12. Admiral Dundas, Attraction, Baroness Rothschild, Editor, Magnum Bonum, Mrs. Colman, Mrs. Hoyle, Mars, Picturata, Perfection, Sir C. Napier. These should all be grown, as they produce large heads of bloom.—John Dobson, *Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth.*

Cucumbers.—Plants in frames will still require attention. Water and air should now be supplied more freely than hitherto. A larger portion of air may be admitted by pulling the lights down and drawing them up alternately. Water should not be given until the sun is sufficiently off the frames to prevent scorching the leaves. The extreme parts of the bed will require the most water, not only because the greater part of the roots are supposed to be extended round the sides of the bed, but also because those parts are more liable to be dried up by the heat of the linings. Towards the end of the month, the plants may be allowed to extend their shoots from under the frame, by lifting it up and supporting it on bricks, or other props, at the corners. The linings should be earthed over, for the shoots to run upon. By this means the plants will extend over a greater surface, and consequently produce a greater quantity of fruit.—John Burton, *Oxton.*

Epacrises.—Attend very carefully to watering and shading the roots, during summer. It is not adviseable to continue stopping the stronger shoots of these plants, after this time, as that would eventually lead to the production of weak and small

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shoots, which cannot bring a good quantity of fine flowers; therefore endeavour to get the shoots of an equal length.—E. CLEETON, *gardener to E. Holland, Esq., M.P., Dumbleton.*

FRUIT GARDEN.—Attend to laying in the shoots of Peaches and Nectarines, and do not allow them to be too crowded. Pears will also require their shoots stopping. In doing this, break the shoots off three or four inches from the stem, and leave the remainder for the winter pruning. Cherries will be getting ripe towards the end of the month, and will require protecting from birds. I do not know any thing better for this purpose than Haythorn's hexagon net. It is cheap and, with care, durable, and answers its purpose thoroughly. Attend to the stopping of Vines on walls. As Strawberries will be swelling the fruit, something should be laid under them, to protect them from heavy falls of rain and grit. Sweepings of lawns answer well, but, in wet weather, are liable to spoil some of the fruit by mould. Straw will, perhaps, be found the best thing that can be had. Prepare runners of Strawberries, for new plantations. For directions, see an article in the present number.—WILLIAM SHIPLEY, *Westbury, Wilts.*

FUCHSIAS.—The early plants will be fast coming into bloom, and will require a good deal of shading. See also that they do not suffer for want of water. Later plants should be liberally supplied with liquid manure, and be kept growing. The Fuchsia, like many other plants, may have its beauty prolonged, by excluding the bees. If they are allowed free access to the plants, they mutilate the bloom, and it soon falls. Young stock should be repotted, and every plant required to flower this year should be in its blooming pot early in this month.—JOHN DOBSON, *Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth.*

HEATHERY.—Plants gone out of flower will be out-of-doors, but Massonii, Ferruginea, Gemifera, Vestitas, and other woolly-foliaged varieties, must not be too much exposed, during rainy weather. Plants which have not been repotted, should be examined, and if necessary, potted, without delay; but if they require to be cut in much, it will be adviseable to let them break before they are repotted. Keep a sharp lookout after mildew, and sulphur directly it is detected. Attend to shading, watering, &c., as before directed.—EDWARD CLEETON, *gardener to E. Holland, Esq., M.P., Dumbleton.*

KITCHEN GARDEN.—Sow Peas about the first and third week in this month. Knight's Dwarf Marrow I find stand as well as any, for a late crop. Plant another row or two of Scarlet Runners, to succeed those sown in May. Plant out Broccoli, Savoys, Brussels Sprouts, and other winter vegetables, as the ground becomes vacant. Plant out a good breadth of Celery. Continue to sow and plant out Lettuce, in a somewhat shaded situation. Plant out Leeks, in trenches, same as Celery, and keep them earthed up. Attend to thinning out crops, as they

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require it. Keep down weeds by every means, and do not allow them to seed. Give water to growing crops, during dry weather, and remember that it is better to thoroughly soak the soil once a week than to give a little every day.—WILLIAM SHIPLEY, *Westbury, Wilts.*

PANSIES.—Those for exhibition will require shading, unless planted on a north border, as recommended last month. See to watering. Young stock must be looked after and increased, that a good store may be secured early. Unless required for seed, pick off all decayed blooms. If left on, they impoverish the plant, and make the succeeding flowers small. Water occasionally with weak liquid manure.—JOHN DOBSON, *Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth.*

PELARGONIUMS.—These may now be considered to be in perfection, and what plant is more beautiful? Shading and watering are the principal things to be attended to, this month, and on no account must they be allowed to suffer from a lack of either. If a few cuttings can be taken off the sides, and put singly into thumb pots, they will make strong plants another year. As soon as they are long enough to ensure three or four eyes, pinch out the top, and train them out as they grow. Regulate the shoots of July plants, and when required for exhibition, they should be tied, a few days before the show.—JOHN DOBSON, *Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth.*

ROSES.—*In pots,* as they go out of bloom, cut out the flower stems, top-dress and keep them on a shady border, taking care not to let them suffer for want of water, and keep them free from insects. Plants under glass should have all the air possible. *Out-doors,* give liberal supplies of liquid manure, and if fine blooms are required for exhibition, thin out to one on each shoot, if you show in single blooms, and if in bunches, be guided by the habit of the plant. Some bloom in large bunches, some only three or four in a cluster; thin out accordingly. Do not spare the syringe now, as it will keep the plants clean and the foliage healthy.—HENRY DAVIES, *Great Stanmore.*

TULIPS.—By the time this reaches the readers of the *Midland Florist,* the best of the bloom will be over and the result of the national show will be known. Judging from present appearances (May 20), it will be the finest ever seen, and the time right to a day. Although it may be rather late for the southern growers, it will be early enough for those in the north. Go over the bed, and mark the qualities of each, especially the new varieties. When the stems will double up, without breaking, the bulbs will be ready to take up. Place them singly, with the stems and fibres attached, in an airy shady situation, until thoroughly dry, when they must be cleaned and put by, till planting time. The pods of any left for seed will be ripe about the middle of August.—T. ALLESTREE, *Draycott, near Derby.*

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# The Royal and National Tulip Exhibition.

ON Thursday, May 27, we and a few friends took the first train from Derby to Sheffield, the place of meeting. The morning was fine, and the ride as pleasant and picturesque as any in the kingdom, with abundance of wild flowers on hill, in dale, and by river side, among which, we doubt not, many rare species might be found. At Clay Cross, Chesterfield, &c., the train took up parties on the same errand as ourselves, as we could see by the paraphernalia of boxes, stands, &c., which made us anticipate a large gathering, and we were not disappointed. At the Sheffield station, we took a cab, and arrived at the Botanical Gardens a little before ten, and found the flowers nearly ready for the judges. The executive committee had laid down three points for the guidance of the judges, viz., absolute purity, perfect dissimilarity, and uniformity of size. If they had added, the cup should be, when fully expanded, from one-half to one-third of a globe (as admirably shown in the two excellent woodcuts, in the last number of the *Midland Florist*), with a good base of white or yellow; the petals stout, or fleshy, with the feathering, whether light or heavy, continuous, without break, and of a uniform breadth round each petal, and in flamed flowers, the flame branching and not breaking heavily through at the top of the petal, there would have been laid down the criterion of a fine Tulip, from which few would dissent. In running our eye over the stands, although there were many fine flowers, we saw the judges would have no easy task to perform:



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there was scarcely a stand but had one or more stained flowers in it, or some other defect. Absolute purity seems now to be insisted on, which has thrown many finely-marked but not clean flowers, southern as well as northern, out of cultivation, before their places have been supplied with new varieties, and made it very difficult for any grower to set up twelve pure flowers which possess the other requisites of a fine Tulip. However, this will soon be remedied. We have seen many fine seedling breeders in our own neighbourhood, and also a few gems, newly broken, which will be described in a subsequent paper. While the judges were placing the first stands, we had time to take a cursory view of the garden, which lies on the side of a hill, and contains eighteen acres, with a range of conservatories on the north side, and a small zoological collection. We had not time to make any observations, and our attention was only arrested by two Araucarias, which we viewed in a meditative mood, they being planted by the Christian poet, Montgomery, whose remains lie in the beautiful cemetery on the opposite hill. A little after twelve o'clock, the judges had placed the five stands of twelve, and we commenced taking notes of the show, and in doing so, we have, throughout, adopted the following arrangement:—Roses, byblœmens, bizarres, and the feathers before the flames, and our observations are enclosed within a parenthesis.

CLASS A.—TWELVE DISSIMILAR BLOOMS.

1. R. H. Betteridge, Esq., Abingdon, seedling rose (delicate feather, pure, and good shape), Cerise Blanch, Triomphe Royale, Aglaia, Lady Denman (slightly stained), Coupe d'Hebe (like Maid of Orleans), Lord Denman (good), Thalia (very fine), George Hayward (fine feathered bizarre), Willison's King (ditto), Polyphemus, and Pilot. 2. Mr. Allestree, Draycott, Derby, Heroine, Aglaia feathered, Aglaia flamed, Triomphe Royale, Chellaston Beauty (heavy irregular feather), Salvator Rosa (Brown) (the best flamed strain, but came feathered, in consequence of the bulb being weakened last year), Salvator Rosa (Gibbons), Sarah Ann, Masterpiece, Sovereign (very fine), Vivid, and Pilot. 3. Rev. S. Creswell, Radford, Nottingham, Heroine, Vicar of Radford feathered, Vicar of Radford flamed (very fine, not too full of colour), Triomphe Royale, Miss

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Creswell (light feathered byblœmen, pure, good shape), Mrs Creswell (quite pure, good shape, colour too much run down the inner petals; evidently a first-rate variety, but not a good break), Duchess of Sutherland (grand), Polyphemus feathered, Duke of Devonshire, Polyphemus (slightly stained), and Pilot (not good). 4. Mr. Norman, Woolwich, Arlette (pure, badly marked), Heroine, Rose Surprising (badly marked, stained at the bottom of the base), Camuse de Craix (pure, shape bad), Mrs. Bowles (pure, badly marked), Salvator Rosa (Brown) (good), Euphrates (full of breeder colour), Vivid, Sovereign, Mr. F. Perkins (pure, too full of colour), and Pilot. (We were going to observe, that the judges placed this pan in this position in consequence of all the flowers being pure, but we find, by our notes, that Rose Surprising was stained, and it was *surprising* to the Tulip growers that the judges placed it where they did). 5. Mr. Turner, Slough, Heroine, Sarah Headly (pure, fine shape, feathering rather too much run down), Aglaia, Fanny Ellsler (white not clear, blue bottom of the beam), Rosa Bonheur (fine feathered byblœmen), Gem of Gems (ditto), Thalia (large and first-rate), Purple Perfection (blue bottom of beam), Dr. Horner (pure, delicate feathered bizarre, large, fine shape, the yellow rather pale), Vivid (large and good), Sir J. Paxton, and Polyphemus (stamens stained. This was a pan of finely-grown flowers, well marked, and uniform in size, and, in our opinion, ought to have stood higher. Two or three of the varieties not being quite pure, must have influenced the judges in placing it where they did.)

CLASS B.—SIX DISSIMILAR BLOOMS (AMATEURS ONLY).

1. Mr. Lowe, Derby, Heroine, Fanny Cerito (fine), Maid of Orleans, Lord Denman (good), Sovereign (ditto) and Pilot (ditto). 2. R. H. Betteridge, Esq., Heroine, Triomphe Royale, seedling byblœmen (light feather, slightly stained), Thalia, Sovereign, and Pilot (very fine). 3. Mr. Godfrey, Chellaston, Derby, Heroine, Maid of Orleans (not correctly marked), Queen Charlotte (good), Sovereign, and Vivid (small). 4. Mr. Parkins, Derby, Heroine, Triomphe Royale, Gem (Abbott), Sarah Ann (too full of colour), Sovereign, and Pilot (very fine). 5. Mr. Houghton, Hempshill, near Nottingham, Heroine, Triomphe Royale, Baguet (pure, and good, for the sort), Lady Franklin (like a good Sarah Ann), Sovereign, and Pilot.

CLASS C.—THREE FEATHERED BLOOMS, ONE IN EACH CLASS.

1. Mr. Godfrey, Heroine, Maid of Orleans, and Sovereign, 2. W. Peacock, Esq., Denton, Heroine, Maid of Orleans, and Duke of Devonshire (good). 3. Mr. Allestree, Heroine, Maid of Orleans, and Sovereign. 4. Mr. Bollorton, Sheffield, Heroine, Maid of Orleans, and Sovereign. 5. Mr. Parkins, Heroine, Maid of Orleans, and Sovereign. 6. Mr. Turner, Sarah Headly (patch of breeder colour in the petals), Gem of Gems

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(not a good specimen), and Dr. Horner (large, fine shape, delicate feather, with a pale yellow or lemon ground). 7. Mr. J. Miller, Heroine, Maid of Orleans, and Sovereign.

CLASS D.—THREE FLAMED BLOOMS, ONE IN EACH CLASS.

1. Mr. Godfrey, Triomphe Royale, Lady Franklin, and Vivid. 2. Mr. Turner, Aglaia, Alcon (good, for the variety), and a seedling bizarre (pure and good). 3. R. H. Betteridge, Esq., Catalani, Sarah Ann (very fine), and Pilot. 4. Rev. S. Creswell, Aglaia, Princess Royal, and Merit. 5. H. Steward, Esq., York, Triomphe Royale, Salvator Rosa (Gibbons) (very good), and Truth (pure). 6. Mr. G. Pickerill, Triomphe Royale, Princess Royal, and Shakspere (good). 7. J. Hunt, Esq., Lady C. Gordon, Maid of Orleans, and Polyphemus.

CLASS E.—SIX BREEDERS, TWO IN EACH CLASS.

1. R. Headly, Esq., of Stapleford, near Cambridge, a gentleman, celebrated for the splendid varieties he has raised from seed. These being some of them, and neither numbered nor named, we made the following remarks:—1st, a rose (first-rate); 2nd, ditto (very fine, rather too long, if anything); 3rd, a byblœmen (grand); 4th, ditto (ditto); 5th, bizarre (very fine); ditto (ditto). 2. Mr. Parkins, Village Maid, Anastasia, Purple Perfection, Venus, seedling, and Pilot. 3. R. H. Betteridge, Esq., seedling (good), ditto (ditto), ditto (ditto), Willison's Queen, Ariosto (pure, but bad shape), and Pilot. 4. J. Hunt, Esq., seedling (moderate), Juliet, Queen of the South (first-rate), Eliza (very slightly stained), Willison's King, and Pilot. 5. H. Steward, Esq., Lady Gordon, Juliet, unknown, Sable Monarch, Willison's King, and Pilot.

CLASS F.—THREE BREEDERS, ONE IN EACH CLASS.

1. J. Hunt, Esq., Juliet, Queen of the South (very fine), and Willison's King. 2. Mr. W. Chadwick, Queen of England (moderate), Earl of Warwick, and Pilot. 3. Mr. S. Hartley, Princess Maud (long), Gibbons's No. 12, and Willison's King. 4. Mr. J. Miller, rose (good), byblœmen (ditto), and bizarre. 5. Mr. Allestree, Juliet (slight stain bottom of the beam), Willison's Seedling, and Sir J. Paxton.

A first-class certificate was awarded to J. Headly, Esq., for a grand feathered byblœmen, named, we believe, Proserpine.

In going over the losing stands, we observed the following varieties, we have not previously noticed:—Miss Grace, a fine scarlet feathered rose, quite pure. Lady Stanley (Gibbons), a pure well-marked feathered rosy byblœmen. Helen (Hunt), a pure delicate

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feathered byblœmen, good shape. Lorenzo, in Mr. Lymbery's stand, was a beautiful light-marked flamed byblœmen; and Sir J. Paxton, in the same stand, was a beautiful and distinct flamed bizarre.

A most excellent dinner was provided at the York Hotel, and partaken of by about sixty persons, including the leading cultivators of the Tulip, in England. The chair was occupied by R. Headly, Esq., of Stapleford, near Cambridge, and the vice-chair by Mr. Turner, of the Royal Nursery, Slough. After the usual loyal toasts, the chairman gave the honorary secretary, Mr. Bagshaw, and the executive committee, which was drank with enthusiasm, for the very able manner in which they had carried out the exhibition. With great good taste, they had purchased four elegant silver plated tea and coffee services, and several sets of cutlery, all of Sheffield manufacture, for the principal prizes, which were presented to the winners, by the chairman, with a suitable address to each. It was decided unanimously that the show should be held, next year, at Slough, Mr. Turner kindly taking charge of it. The health of the chairman, R. Headly, Esq., and thanks for the able manner in which he presided, concluded the proceedings. The majority then returned to the Botanical Gardens, where there was a large and fashionable company, and an excellent military band, which continued to play until after seven o'clock, concluding with the national anthem, which terminated one of the most agreeable meetings the National has ever had.

T. ALLESTREE.

## Correspondence on Roses.

THE only questions at issue between Mr. Appleby and myself are, first, as to the treatment of the Rosé Gloire de Dijon, to have it in bloom on the 12th of August. If my management will not produce bloom at the time stated, if Mr. A. is so confident that J. W. will be disappointed, why does he not set us right? why not give us his treatment,



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to produce the desired effect? I promise him I will give it a fair trial, and I am open to conviction. This, surely, would be more to the purpose than any cross-firing of ours, and more interesting to the readers of the *Midland Florist*. And, secondly, Mr. A. seems determined to be the champion of the Manetti stock. I, perhaps, should as pertinaciously cling to it, if I had a few thousand Roses on it, for sale. I have nothing to add to what I have already stated, either for or against it. I can only say, that I am not alone in my opinion. More than one or two large Rose growers will bear me out; and after all that has been written and published in its favour (chiefly by growers of Roses for sale), I think the best proof of its inferiority is, that where you will find, in a private collection, one worked Rose on the Manetti stock, you will see ten on the common Brier. This cannot be because it is not known, or has not been sufficiently puffed. The fact is, it has been tried and found wanting. In plain words, it will not last; and I again repeat, that in the hands of the amateur or gentleman's gardener, who, perhaps grow their fifty or one hundred plants, and who do not wish to have to renew them every year, the common Brier is *the best*, and, with the same treatment as the Manetti, will produce more bloom and last longer, will bear more ill-treatment, and grow on and bloom where the Manetti would starve and die. With respect to the hardiness of the Rose Gloire de Dijon, I admit it is hardy and a good grower, but it will be none the worse for a sheltered situation. I deny his assertion, at the conclusion of the last article, that all Roses are more likely to be killed on any stock, in a hard winter, or die from other causes, than on their own roots. I know, from experience, that many of the Hybrid Perpetual Roses especially have stood on the Brier, when they have been killed on the Manetti and on their own roots. In conclusion, this controversy has been carried quite as far as will benefit the readers, I therefore leave them to decide the two questions at issue, and will abide by their decision.

H. DAVIES.

## Choice Fruit, exhibited at Chiswick,

JUNE 9.

BEING engaged in the fruit department, at Chiswick, at the late exhibition, I will, with your permission, make a few remarks on some of the most prominent and superior of the various kinds there shown. The show of fruit, on the whole, was excellent,

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and, for June, superior to previous exhibitions. The Pineapples and Black Grapes were especially fine; White Grapes good, but, with one or two exceptions, not ripe; Peaches and Nectarines good; Figs and Cherries fair; Strawberries fine-looking, flavour indifferent. Her Majesty noticed a seedling Strawberry, called Sir Colin Campbell, and was told it was sour. The Queen laughed, and said perhaps it was right it should be so. The best Providence Pineapples were from Mr. Oates, gardener at Stoneleigh Abbey, and Mr. Jackson, gardener at Keddleston, Derby. The best Queens were from Mr. Burn, gardener at Penrhyn Castle; Mr. Robinson, gardener at Wharnford Park; and Mr. Maher, gardener, Baron's Hill, Anglesea. Those were all very fine. The best Black Grapes were from Mr. Allen, gardener to J. B. Glegg, Esq., F.H.S. These were beautiful specimens, and as near perfection as possible. The next best was a basket from Mr. Frost, gardener at Preston Hall. These were beautifully grown, and received the five pound prize, given by Mr. Dilke, for the best basket of Black Grapes. There were several others fine; indeed all the Black Grapes were good, including a nice dish of West's St. Peter, from Mr. Allport. who had also three good dishes of Frontignans, black, grizzly, and white. Muscats, good, but not ripe. Muscadines and Sweetwaters, good, but hardly ripe. Melons were shown in quantity, but only a few of them ripe and fit for table. The best Green-fleshed was a small round Melon, from Mr. Ingram, gardener at High Grove, Reading. Flesh tender and melting, crisp and juicy, with a sweet brisk flavour. Second, from Mr. Boreham, gardener to Sir Fitzroy Kelly; similar in flavour, but hardly ripe enough. Third, from Mr. Chilman. This was an oblong Melon, of the Persian or Beechwood kind, and although the flesh was tender and melting, it wanted the crisp taste and brisk flavour of the former, leaving an over-luscious mawkish taste on the palate, a fault this class of Melons is generally subject to. Scarlet-fleshed Melons, not ripe. Peaches were good and well ripened. The two baskets from Mr. Davies, gardener, Astle

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Park, Chelford, were nice examples of good cultivation; and those from Mr. Masters, gardener to the Earl of Macclesfield, were but a shade behind; and also Mr. Cotterell, who was second, with two baskets, distinct sorts. Nectarines, first, Mr. Fleming. These were beautiful specimens. Mr. Pryor and Mr. Cotterell also showed fine fruit. Figs, first, Mr. Farthing, gardener to Lord Ashburton, with a neat dish of Brown Turkey. Second, Mr. Frost, with a nicely-finished fruit of Lee's Perpetual. Apricots, Mr. Lunt, gardener to Sir M. Shaw Stewart. This was the only exhibition from Scotland. Cherries, Mr. Fleming. Strawberries, three baskets, distinct sorts, Mr. Widdowson, gardener, Chorley Wood House. British Queens, Mr. Smith. Other sorts, Mr. Bailey and Mr. Woods. A novelty, a dish of late Peas, well preserved, was shown by Mr. Burnell, gardener at Raynard's Park, Cranley.

M. BUSBY, F.H.S.

## Cultivation of the Genus Lælia.

AMONG Orchids, it would be difficult to select a tribe of plants more beautiful and interesting, unless it may be that of the genus Cattleya, from which several of the species have been transferred. As a general characteristic, the habit is compact, dark, glossy, evergreen foliage, and, in the majority of cases, flower during the winter. Unquestionably the best in the genus is Purpurata, of which there are several varieties in cultivation, and in habit so much alike, as scarcely to be distinguished, unless when in flower. The species that come nearest to Purpurata are, Anceps, Anceps Barkeriana, Perrinii, Magalis, Autumnalis, and Superbiens. Who, let me ask, that is interested in Orchids, does not remember the magnificent plant of the latter that for many years graced the gardens of the London Horticultural Society, at Chiswick?

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A house kept at a Mexican temperature is the best situation for Lælias, but they may be managed well in a house set apart for the growth of Indian Orchids, by selecting the coolest and airiest place, and limiting the supply of water. Perrinii is, however, an exception, as it thrives with great vigour in a high moist atmosphere, and may, therefore, be classed with Saccolabiums and Ærides.

Sometimes we see Lælias grown on blocks of wood, with a slight covering of moss, and suspended from the roof of the house; but this is a precarious process, involving a great deal of attention, with very uncertain results, as neglect of water readily destroys the large succulent roots. My practice is invariably to treat them as pot plants, potted among turfy peat and Sphagnum, prepared in the following way:—The peat is laid on the potting bench, and beat with a spade, till little more than the fibre remains, which is mixed with an equal part of Sphagnum, and reduced to a more compact state by the agency of the billhook, or some other edged tool. The drainage occupies about a third part of the pot, and the potting material is pressed as firmly as possible, and brought to a hard smooth surface. Hard potting prevents the necessity of constantly dosing the roots with water, which should be avoided, as the progress of the plant is never satisfactory, where such a practice is followed. I hardly ever allow my Lælias to be syringed, nor indeed any of our Orchids; the moisture is furnished by throwing water over the hot water pipes and floors.

JOHN LOGAN.

## A Circular Bed of Hardy Americans.

[*From the Florist.*]

I HAVE a very gratifying bed of this kind, opposite my door, surrounded by a circular low fancy iron edging. This is again bounded by a circular grass plot, about five feet wide, near the outside of

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which are planted, on three feet six inch standards, the following seven good hardy Roses:—Two Augustine Mouchelets, Mont Carmel, Inermis, Sidonie, Jacques Lafitte, and Madeleine (H.C.) The bed is eleven feet in diameter, and about six feet deep. It was filled, on the removal of the soil, with rotten leaves, decayed vegetable matter, and about three or four three-horse waggon loads of the best peat, sent to me sixteen miles, by my kind brother. The centre of the bed is a little elevated. I planted it four years ago, by the advice of Mr. Gill, nurseryman, of Blandford, with the following plants:—The centre plant (the highest) is a variegated-leaved Ponticum (from Gibraltar), which gives a purple flower, in May; the others, which follow in successional height, are composed of the following:—One Berberis (dulcis), which gives abundance of yellow drops, in April (Magellan). Three pink Kalmia latifolia, from North America. The flowers are among the loveliest in the world. The Rhododendron hirsutum (hairy), from Switzerland, produces bright rose flowers, in May. Six small common Pontics, whose flowers are purple. Three hardy rose, crimson, and purple-coloured Rhododendrons. The name of the purple, which flowers in June, is Catawbiense, from Catawba, in North America. Two Ledum latifolium (the Labrador Tea tree), from North America, which give white flowers, in April. Two Andromeda floribunda (like Privet), from North America, which flower in May. The colour is white. One Pernettya mucronata, from Brazil, whose white flowers are succeeded by beautiful purple berries. This was charged as mucronata, but I think it should have been ciliata. Three Rhododendron ferrugineum (iron-coloured leaves), which give early, and sometimes late, in the year, the loveliest rose sprigs that I ever saw. One Prunus glabra (new). Six small common purple Pontics. And lastly, a few common Moss Roses, and Eugene Beauharnais, a beautiful amaranth, fill up the gaps between the plants. Instead of Moss Roses, put Fabvier and other brilliant Roses of the semperflorens tribe.

Next to the iron fence, within the circle, as edging,

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were planted Abbe Mioland, Elise Sauvage, M. Laffay, Tea Caroline, Paul Joseph, Vicomtesse de Cases, Cramoisie superieure, Souvenir d'un Ami, Comte d'Eu, Bougere, Proserpine, Bourbon Queen, Ne plus ultra, Safranot. Tea Roses must be taken up in winter. Bougere (Bonse) is the only one among the above Teas. All the Roses must have a little loam. Manure with rotten dung, and beware of guano or liquid manure in such a bed. Manure the Chinas, in the centre of the bed, as much as you like, but, as the edging Roses should be kept dwarf, you must be sparing. The Americans must, every two years, have their roots cut in a radius of eight inches, and the ground must be well stirred. They flourish better so than when allowed to root into each other. Protect Ledums in winter, and don't attempt to have Azaleas.

This, then, is the bed, and these are its contents, without sensible error. The Americans are various and beautiful in flower and foliage, and gratify the eye throughout the year with their foliage alone. The brilliant China Roses, such as Beauharnais, light up the dense green of the Pontics, and the contrast between the various greens and the amaranth colour of Eugene Beauharnais is very striking. Instead of the Roses which I have used for edging, put equal numbers of Paul Joseph, the Geant, Comte d'Eu, and Abbe Mioland; or you might put in all of one colour,—accumulation of brilliant colour is always effective.

This bed is a continual spring, summer, autumn, and winter gratification; and if these remarks should lead any one of your readers to adopt or improve upon this plan, so as to receive as great or greater satisfaction than I have, I shall feel glad that I have written this article. In conclusion, as other and perhaps better American plants than those I have named may have been introduced within the last four years, it would be wise to consult the Messrs. Waterer, or other nurserymen, on the subject.

W. F. RADCLYFFE.

*Rector of Rushton, Blandford.*

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# The Vine under Glass.

THERE are so many treatises and papers on this subject, that a young beginner would be scared altogether from an attempt to learn from books, if he were to see them all at once, and find what an ocean of reading he would have to sail over, were he condemned to peruse them all; and this must be his doom, unless some good-natured friend would tell him which were the best, and then he would know but little, for somebody's description of a useless volume would apply to nine-tenths of them,—"words, words, words." We have already given a few directions, easily understood and followed, in cultivating the Vine in the open air, and a good deal of it necessarily applies to its culture under glass. For instance, the soil or compost in which it is to be grown; and considering that no two seem to agree upon this subject, we believe we have done some good, by showing that there is no need of half the nostrums recommended by different writers, and that the Vine is as easily cultivated as any fruit. We hate mystery, and when simple modes of doing any thing succeed, it is rank nonsense to go a round-about way to accomplish it. We admit the Vine is a coarse feeder, but will our readers believe that a writer could be mad enough to direct a Vine border to be made thus? The parings of old pasture land, turfs with four inches of the soil, an eighth part limestone, or scrapings of highways, and another eighth of dung. The width to be eight yards, and as the border is making, "*adding one good-sized horse or cow carcass to every ten or twelve square yards, using caution, and not bringing it to the surface of the border, within one foot.*"* Supposing, therefore, that a grapery is only thirty-six feet long, the border will occupy ninety-six square yards, which, according to the lowest estimate, will require eight good-sized horses or cows. It is writing of this kind that deters people from beginning to

* Roberts on the Vine, p. 9.

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cultivate anything so difficult. Now a vinery of thirty-six feet is not very large, and what gentleman would ever think of Grape growing, if he must find eight good-sized carcases of horses or cows, to make his border with? How many hundreds of Vines have been planted without any preparation whatever, in good fat loam, and done well for years? How many dead carcases were used for the Hampton Court Vine border? However, we have, in the treatise on out-of-door culture, said all that we think necessary about the borders. Again, the pruning of the Vine is the same, or should be the same, inside as outside; the only real difference is the time you begin. The system of pruning must be alike, so that we may refer to the former article for that also. A good deal of controversy has been held upon the subject of planting inside or outside the house, and the various reasons given for preferring the one or the other, are as unsatisfactory as the discussion. The objection to outside planting is the exposure of the stem to the cold, while the Vine itself is excited by heat, just as if the stem could not be introduced at the bottom, as well as half-way up. There is no doubt of this,—when planted inside, they have no sun, and not much air for the roots, and that is one of the reasonable objections to inside planting. If we had to construct a vinery, we should build the front wall on arches, plant outside, just as we have directed for planting against a wall, and take the stem through, into the house, at the bottom, and thus give the Vine the benefit of the full outside border, and allow the roots to run inside, if they please. If the house is already built, we have only to knock the bricks out, instead of having the arch already made for it; but there is one thing that can be done advantageously, that is, build a shallow pit, all along the front, so that the cold rains can be kept off, and the sun have all its influence through the glass; and we might go yet further, by making communications between the house and the pit, that could be closed or kept open, as wanted. This would enable us to keep the pit which is over the roots the same



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temperature as the house, whatever that might be. It would also possess all the advantages of the open border, by merely taking off the glass. We must, however, first consider the culture of the Vine under glass, without any aid whatever from artificial heat, such as an ordinary greenhouse, in which no fires are kept; next, in a greenhouse or conservatory where the temperature is raised a little for the other plants; and thirdly, regular forcing, to bring them altogether before their season. By merely covering the Vine with glass, it would be protected against the wind, and the fruit would ripen even in bad seasons. In this case, all the operations directed for open air culture should be observed. They would simply begin a little earlier. The only difference being in the training, which would be on the roof, instead of on a wall; but, as the Vines have no rain, we must use the syringe freely. We must reduce the bunches to a reasonable number, and then the Grapes on each bunch. As most of the Grapes are in threes, you may safely remove the two side berries of each three, and leave the leading one. This will make the berries much larger, and hasten the ripening. The Vine may be regularly syringed, until they turn colour, and be shut up close at sunset; and, as the roots have not the benefit of rain, if they have a covering of glass, let them have water occasionally, particularly as they approach maturity. If you have not pits in front, the rains will be sufficient; and unless you are forcing, the pits will be of no use. Attend to all the rules of pruning, as you would on the walls, or on the front of the house. In a greenhouse, the best way to treat the Vine is to have a single rod up each rafter. It does not exclude all the light from the plants growing underneath. The principal care required is in pruning. If we adopt the spur system, which is the best for greenhouse culture, the rod is allowed to run up the whole length of the rafter, and it may be stopped as soon as it reaches the end. The side shoots should also be stopped at the first leaf, and the tendrils removed. This throws the whole strength into the rod,

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which will, the second season, break the whole length. The house should be opened as much as possible, to ripen the wood. When you prune, cut back every thing to spurs, look well to the fastenings of the rod, and let it take its chance, because, as your greenhouse is used for other plants, you cannot consider any thing about temperature. When the Vine breaks, you will soon see the fruit, and as there may be one, two, or three bunches on a shoot, reduce them to one. Syringing the Vine is giving it new life. It keeps the plant clean and healthy, keeps off fly, mildew, scale, and all other plagues; and if there is the least foulness in the wood, in the winter time, wash and brush with warm soapsuds.

## THE SORTS OF GRAPES FOR GLASS CULTURE AND FORCING.

If there be any dependance on the descriptions of nurserymen, there are two Grapes which must prove a great acquisition. The Golden Hamborough and the Muscat Hamborough, the one a fine yellowish transparent Grape, very handsome, but in shape the very counterpart of the Black Hamborough, and the other a black Grape, with the Muscat flavour. The principal description of the latter was in a work which has deceived more people than all the rest of the works put together, because the pictorial illustrations are made to corroborate what is said in print, so far as Geraniums and Dahlias are concerned. The flowers, before they are put into the hands of the artist, are so doctored, and dressed, and manufactured, that whoever buys from seeing the picture, is taken in and done for; and we will defy the best grower in the world, pick him up where you may, to prove that he ever produced a flower like the drawing. In fruit, it is rather different, because it is difficult to do any thing more with fruit than to manufacture a large bunch, with all large berries, out of half-a-dozen small ones, nicely shaped, for the artist to copy. The Golden Hamborough Grape, we have seen and noticed, much to the advantage of Mr. Veitch, who let it out, for hundreds, who would not

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have trusted any advertisement, took it on our recommendation. The Muscat Hamborough, if what the raiser says be true, is the most desirable Grape in cultivation, for the Muscat flavour on a fine black Grape is very valuable. These two, therefore, are the first we should mention, because the most handsome and the most novel. Black Hamborough is always an acceptable Grape, for its beauty, when well coloured. Cannon Hall Muscat and New Dutch Sweetwater will stand their ground, as long as Grape growing is known. The Cannon Hall Muscat renders the White Muscat, from which it was raised, quite useless. The Black Prince is not a Grape for us; it wants less care, for you can hardly spoil the colour, but the flavour is not so good as the Hamborough. There are many other Grapes recommended by different writers, but we shall only add, White Muscadine, White Frontignan, and a Black Grape, called the Champion, which is met with in the north. We tasted it with the Black Hamborough, by the side of which it was growing, and was better. Some or all of these, and a few others, may be chosen; but, under glass, without heat, the *Muscat* would be of no use. To do it well, it ought to be in a house by itself, and be started early, for it wants a good heat and a long season to bring it to perfection. Our choice for the greenhouse, or under glass, without heat, would be the Dutch Sweetwater, the Black Hamborough, the White Muscadine, White Frontignan, Miller's Burgundy, Grisly Frontignan, Black Frontignan, because they will all ripen. For forcing, all these will do, but we should add the Cannon Hall Muscat, Golden Hamborough, and Muscat Hamborough. But the Muscat must have plenty of heat and moisture, and therefore does best by itself.

## FORCING THE VINE.

As a general rule for forcing, let it be understood that the constitution of a plant is put out of its way, and that a plant forced one year is better prepared for forcing the next. Nothing can be more erroneous than

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giving the plant a rest for a season; it will be ready to start the same time next, and so completely is its season altered, that if it were put in the open air, its buds would swell much sooner than those which had not been forced. Mr. Towers, one of our earliest contributors to the *Gardeners' Gazette*, and a thorough practical, used to lay down the following rule:—*First*, excite the same trees, and at precisely the same time of year, avoiding, if possible, to give one degree of artificial heat beyond thirty-five degrees (that is, just to keep above actual frost), till the sun has passed its lowest meridional depression. *Second*, clean the stems of the Vine thoroughly, and keep them moist during the early stages of forcing, by occasionally syringing, and a moderately vaporous atmosphere. *Third*, never attempt a higher degree of night temperature than sixty-five degrees, and come to that by gradation. First week, fifty-five degrees; second sixty; and then sixty-two to sixty-five. By day, the sun will raise it considerably higher. Syringe the house and shut up early in the afternoon. As the roots, according to our plan, will be under glass, take care that they are watered, when the earth is too dry. If the border be not covered, and it has all the rain, it will not want artificial watering; but this must be looked to early, and water properly supplied. As the wood ripens, you may calculate how many eyes you want left, to form spurs for the next season, and remove all the rest. Let the Vine be cool, and dry, till the leaves fall. For this purpose, take off the lights altogether. Whatever time you begin forcing, you should commence by thoroughly cleaning the stem, and attend to the temperature of the house. You may begin to set your house in order in March, and be not afraid of syringing the Vines by two or three o'clock, and close up. As the buds swell, you may increase the temperature, until the period of blooming approaches, when it may be sixty-five degrees at night, and as much warmer by day as the sun makes it. As you will see two or three bunches of grapes at each eye, stop the shoot one joint above



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the bunch you mean to retain, and remove all but one. Keep the house dry, or nearly so, when the Grapes are in bloom. As soon as the fruit will bear thinning, this must, as we have already said, be carefully and judiciously done, removing the berries nearest the middle or stem, and retaining the handsomest that are outside. Be not afraid of removing two for every one that you leave, keeping your attention on the form of the bunch. When you begin thinning, the Grapes should not be larger than a small Sweet Pea. Never mind leaving them thin, and the bunch very open. Let the temperature be sixty-five degrees, at night, and keep the atmosphere damp and the temperature high by day. Eighty, eighty-five, or even ninety degrees will not hurt, but you must syringe and water the pipes. The outside must not be forgotten. If there be any glass over the border, give the roots a good soaking with liquid manure. We do not hold with mulching the border, but when the grapes are swelling, the roots must be fed. We proposed to go on with this subject so far as to treat of growing Vines in pots, but it will make a paper of itself. Enough has been said to assist any young beginner, and our next paper shall complete the work. We have seen the grower safe to a good crop, and now that they are colouring, keep the house more dry, and he will only have to cut them in good condition.

GEORGE GLENNY.

## Treatment of Erythrina Crista-Galli.

BY A NOBLEMAN'S FLOWER GARDENER.

WE are so much addicted to neglecting good old plants, in favour of novelties, that this fact alone may be sufficient to account for the neglect with which this fine plant and once universal favourite has been treated. Few plants are, however,

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more elegant or truly ornamental than a fine specimen of Erythrina crista-galli, the old coral plant, introduced eighty-seven years back, and now but seldom seen, except in large collections, or places of some note. To grow it well, few plants, strange as it may seem, are more accommodating; and it may be flowered either as an early stove or late greenhouse plant, on a conservative wall, or even in a warm open border, with a little care and management.

The Erythrina also may be had in bloom early in spring, by placing a plant in the stove, not later than Christmas; and a succession may be kept up, by starting them at proper intervals. In the greenhouse, if kept rather close, when beginning to grow, they will bloom freely, about midsummer, while, if started in a common hotbed, in March, and then gradually hardened off, they will bloom in May and June. It is best to commence with young plants, and give liberal treatment, to encourage luxuriant growth, for the stronger the growth and the finer the foliage, the stronger will be the crown of the plant, and, consequently, the more vigorous the supply of shoots, in the flowering season. The plants should have large shifts, and a free supply of liquid manure, with plenty of provision for drainage. The most suitable compost I have always found to consist of three parts fibrous peat, two parts fibrous loam, and one part a mixture, in equal quantities, of leaf mould, well-rotted sheep dung, and silver sand. A gentle bottom heat is very useful in obtaining a good supply of roots. The temperature of the house need not be more than about sixty degrees. When the plants have made some progress, let air be given, to prevent the shoots being drawn up, or the bloom will not be strong; and give them a good syringing, every evening. If old plants are started, be careful that you do not permit the development of too many shoots; five or six being quite sufficient for a strong crown, if the object be to have fine spikes of bloom, instead of a mass of weakly ones, which never have so imposing an appearance. When, therefore, the plants have made

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shoots a finger long, thin out all the superfluous ones, according to the strength of the root. When the bloom has passed, immediately begin to reduce the supply of moisture, and shortly cut down the plants, and keep them rather dry, especially in winter. A proper place for them, at this time, is where they will be just preserved from frost Stock may be increased with ease, by cutting the shoots into pieces, each of two or three joints, and allowing them to remain a sufficient time to dry, before putting in, the same as for all succulent cuttings, when they may be struck in sandy soil, in a gentle heat, covered with a bell-glass, or hand-light. The old stems may also be cut into pieces, each having one eye, covered with soil, half an inch deep, and placed in a good hotbed, the same as Vines are treated from single eyes. When well rooted, they may be potted off, and the sooner this is done the better.

Erythrina crista-galli is one of the finest plants I have ever grown against a conservative wall, where it flowers beautifully. It should have a well-drained border, and a soil made up of sandy loam and fibrous peat, with old cow dung well incorporated. In winter, a little mulch or litter placed round the roots, to keep frost from them and the crown of the plant, after the plant is cut down, is all the protection necessary, until spring, when the young shoots may have a few Fir branches stuck before them, until the end of May. If treated in the same way, it will grow against the side of a house. One of my neighbours has a plant established against the wall of his cottage, and it has, during several seasons, borne a complete mass of its lovely scarlet blossoms, to the admiration of all who have seen it.

If grown in the flower border, the best plan, perhaps, is to take the plant up by the end of autumn, and place it out of the reach of frost, and keep it nearly dry. In spring, as soon as all danger from frost is over, it may be turned out, and should have as much encouragement as possible. I have had a row of them annually

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in fine bloom, in a border, in front of a south wall, and continuing to make a beautiful show, with their rich blossoms and luxuriant foliage, of which any one who has not seen them can form but little idea.

Erythrina crista-galli is a native of Brazil, where it grows as a bushy tree, forty feet high, and is one of the brightest ornaments of the Flora of that enchanting region.

*Floricultural Cabinet.*

## Cultivation of the Dahlia.

WE have received several communications, asking for information with regard to the Dahlia. We cannot exactly make out what department our correspondents wish to have, but give, from the pen of the Rev. H. Burgess, a lesson for the present season.

These fine ornaments of large gardens are now beginning to flower, and require some attention, to ensure good blooms and a healthy growth. Some cultivators prune extensively, so as to have only one leading stem, and but few laterals, until the plant has attained a good height. That only one shoot should be trained, in the early management of the Dahlia, is, doubtless, the best treatment, but to what extent laterals should be suppressed, is an affair of taste, which the amateur must regulate for himself. The plan which has been often recommended as the best for making the most of a Dahlia, and displaying its luxuriance to the greatest advantage, is to tie up the laterals to smaller stakes, arranged symmetrically around the central one. Let the sticks and the tying material, both be trustworthy, for the Dahlia has to stand very rough weather, when it is in the finest state of bloom, and its being prostrated by the wind is a misfortune to be averted by all means. The plants should be looked over every day, that tying may be attended to, before an ungainly growth takes place.

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Dahlias will not bloom well, unless a degree of moisture is kept up at the root; and sedulous attention to this is indispensable. Many fine flowers are stunted in their growth, and deformed in their bloom, because the soil is too dry. Constant watering being attended with trouble, and also being undesirable, because it washes the best properties of the compost beyond the range of the roots, it is strongly recommended to mulch the surface, to about nine inches, all round the plant. I once put the mowings of the lawn to this use, laying on a thick stratum of grass, round each Dahlia. Previous to this being done, the soil must be thoroughly soaked, and one such watering will last for a week, although, without the mulching, one dry day would render the operation again necessary. Having arranged my grass coverings in good order, I was much pleased with the plan, and thought it improved the appearance of the Dahlias; but this satisfaction did not last long, for the next morning, I found every little heap scattered in all directions, by the claws and beaks of birds, who appear to have left all other pursuits, in order to revel in my handiworks. I found, therefore, that one labour led on to another, and I collected the grass again with a rake, and fenced each mulching with brushwood laid over it, and fastened into the soil. This must be done, or neatness is at an end, and it must be done effectually too; for I find, wherever there is a gap in my enclosures, the birds trespass and drag out the grass. I expect they find insects sheltered in my mulchings, and that this is the cause of their petinacious efforts to undo my works.

These mulchings should be kept moist, and this can be done by sprinkling a little water daily from the rose of a watering pot. This is necessary, to keep the soil beneath equally wet, and also to prevent earwigs and other insects from lodging in the grass. Earwigs and woodlice hate a wet situation, and are always found in the driest places; hence, the wet state of the grass will prevent their stopping among it. Earwigs are the worst enemies of Dahlias, feeding on the young and

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undeveloped petals of the flowers, as every amateur knows to his abundant vexation. Perhaps the best trap is a small flower pot, at the top of the stake, for these insects seem to have a strong propensity to ascend as high as they can for a lodging. This *attic* taste may be turned to good account by the gardener, and the pots will be found occupied every morning, by the enemies he is in search of. As the movement of the pot arouses them, and makes them fall, and thus escape, I put a piece of brown paper in each pot, crumpled up, so as to retain its place, when the pot is removed. In searching for them, a board should be carried with you, or else, when you unfold the paper, they will get away, if this is done on the walk or the lawn. A lady, not liking such a mode of killing as treading with the foot, may be allowed the more refined method of taking with her a china vessel, with water, into which the paper parcels may discharge their cargo. I killed many thousands, last year, in this way. A little diluted cow-dung may be applied once a fortnight, and all decaying flowers should be cut off. These contain earwigs, which must not be allowed to run away.

## Allotment Gardens.

BY A MECHANIC.

WE should like to know what proportion of all classes are interested in gardening. When there was some talk of invading their interests, by a bill in Parliament, there were statements made that the body of professional gardeners exceeded seventy-five thousand; but for one professional gardener there must be a hundred who garden for amusement, and those who have visited some of the suburbs of manufacturing towns, can alone form an idea of the vast numbers who, recognizing the truth of the old saying, "change of work is a holiday," rush from their

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daily employment to their little gardens, and often work harder than they have been working all day. It has been asserted by a garden paper, that there are no less than five thousand gardens round Nottingham, and, as it is not contradicted, we may assume it is true. If we could but calculate the number of hours thus rescued from the public house, how anxious we should be to afford, round every town and village in the kingdom, the means of employing every poor man's leisure hours. It has been said, "Property has its rights, but it has also its duties," and one of the chief duties is that of studying the welfare, body and soul, of all classes below the sphere in which the man of property moves. Let some of the spare acres be divided into allotments, to be rented by working men, not at an extortionate rent, and it need not be at a loss. We know that round Sheffield the price of a bit of garden is enormous, and there are rich noblemen who could afford to knock down the price, by devoting some land to allotments, at the current farming rent, and thus employ men who have nothing to do, and rush anywhere for society. We have been told that land in the neighbourhood of Sheffield lets at four shillings and sixpence a square rod, of which there are one hundred and sixty to an acre, so that, in round numbers, it is thirty-six pounds per acre, amounting to exclusion, except for the better class of tradesmen. The poor are as completely shut out as if there were no land; yet thousands of allotments could be let out by one or two wealthy landowners, and one-half the time now lost in public houses would be saved. Let us plead for the industrious classes, with those who have land, and hope they will speedily apportion some of their estate for garden purposes; for an awful responsibility rests on those who can redeem the idler and improve the moral and social condition of the poor, and neglect to do it. We know that allotments, and shows to exhibit the produce, for prizes, have so improved the population in some towns, that people who had not visited them for several years, but knew them at their worst, considered the change

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next to a miracle. Let us hope that there may be more changes, that the rich will see the necessity of placing in the poor man's way the means of spending his leisure hours profitably; for it is a hard case that men should have no choice between solitary idleness and the excitement and expense of the alehouse. It is a sorry subject for contemplation, and we are wicked enough to wish that we could keep the wealthy, who can and will not do their duty, from having a wink of sleep, till they changed.

## The Exhibitions of the Month.

NOTTINGHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—This society held its first exhibition on June 1st. The plants were magnificent, especially those from J. S. Marfleet, Esq., of Winthorpe, Sir T. G. Parkyns, and J. T. Edge, Esq. The most conspicuous of these were six Azaleas, from Winthorpe, which attracted the attention of all present. The Allamanda cathartica, too, with its beautiful foliage and gloxinia-like flowers, of a splendid deep yellow hue, was very greatly admired. Six Pelargoniums, from Messrs. Small, were well grown, as were also six fancy Pelargoniums, which, in our opinion, were far above the other sorts. The Ferns of Mrs. Lowe, of Highfield House, were universally admired; indeed, at no other exhibition, out of the metropolis, have we seen such well grown specimens. Orchids also were good. Some Petunias, from Mr. Small, were also exhibited. In Tulips, there was a very good display, although all the flowers grown on sandy soil, in or near Nottingham, were far past their best. We noticed, particularly, as fine specimens, the following:—Heroine, Sovereign, exhibited by Mr. Lymbery; Triumphant, seedling (feathered byb.), Mr. Frearson; seedling (flamed byb.), seedling (feathered biz.), Caliph, seedling (feathered rose), Aglaia, Sovereign, and Princess Royal, exhibited by Mr. G. Frearson, Ison Green, near Nottingham. Mr. Lymbery also gained a first-class certificate, for a seedling, named Mrs. Pickering. The exhibition exceeded our anticipation, and was one of the best ever held in Nottingham. We shall give the awards in the usual place.

DERBY.—This show was really excellent, and included the famous Chatsworth collection. Stove and greenhouse plants, Pelargoniums, Azaleas, Achimenes, first-rate. Mrs. Lowe's Ferns were truly magnificent. In cut flowers, Tulips and



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Pansies were very fine. We were truly sorry that our friends at Derby had such unfavourable weather, and fear that it had an unfavourable effect on their finances. We shall give the award of prizes in due course.

THE LEICESTERSHIRE FLORAL SOCIETY.—This society held their first exhibition for the season on Wednesday, May 26, in the Town Hall, which was decorated with evergreens and banners, while the flowers were ranged on tables, down the centre of the room. At three o'clock, the price of admission was one shilling, but the working men were admitted, from five to seven, on the payment of threepence. We must say we wish this system were more universally adopted. Large quantities of splendid flowers are generally brought together at these exhibitions, and why not give the working men an opportunity of seeing and admiring these beautiful works of nature? They will not fade any sooner because a poor man is allowed to gaze on their beauty. We wish more societies, and several within our own neighbourhood, were thrown open to the public. The love of flowers is almost universal. What in nature is more calculated to charm the eye, and raise the taste and character of the masses, than flowers—"the smiles of God's goodness," as they have been not inappropriately called?

LINCOLN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—This society held its exhibition in the Exchange, Lincoln, May 4. In the collection of twelve varieties of stove or greenhouse plants, J. S. Marfleet, Esq., of Winthorpe Hall, was the successful competitor, and he well deserved the prize awarded to him. Mr. Marfleet's stove and greenhouse plants were the perfection of their classes, and some of these plants were magnificent specimens. C. Chaplain, Esq., Blankney, and R. Ellison, Esq., Sudbrook, also exhibited in this class, and their specimens were scarcely less meritorious than those from Winthorpe. The gems of the group were the Allamanda cathartica, belonging to Mr. Marfleet, and the Icosiandari pendule, and Meyenia erecta, from Blankney. These were magnificently developed plants, and attracted much attention. A very fine Erica Cavendishii, covered with brilliant flowers, was exhibited by Mr. M'Bey, gardener to R. Ellison, Esq., of Sudbrook. The show of Azaleas and Pelargoniums was brilliant in the extreme. The Azaleas produced by Mr. M'Bey were splendid specimens—large handsome plants, covered with flowers, dazzling to gaze upon. Two other specimens, the optima and violacea superba, were also highly commendable. The Pelargonium was well and largely represented, occupying no less than eight classes. For six varieties of Roses, in pots, the Rev. C. M. G. Jarvis was awarded the first prize, C. Chaplin, Esq., and G. K. Jarvis, Esq., being second and third. Miss Cookson, of Lincoln, was awarded the palm for single specimens of potted Roses, and J. Marfleet, Esq., for single varieties of superior cultivation. The

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Orchids were a good class, the exhibiters being Mr. Ellison, Mr. Marfleet, and Mr. Dawber. Mrs. G. Moore, of Lincoln, obtained a prize for four varieties of Lycopodiums. Mr. Peck, gardener to Major Sibthorpe, M.P., exhibited some handsome variegated plants. The show of fruit and vegetables was good. The Apples exhibited by the Rev. W. Bromehead, G. K. Jarvis, Esq., and Lord Monson, were all fine, sound, and free from blemish. A splendid Pineapple, exhibited by Lord Monson, was deservedly admired, as were three dishes of Strawberries, from the Burton, Blankney, and Doddington Gardens. A dish of very fine Cherries, exhibited by Mr. Ellison, also received much commendation.

Bath Horticultural Show.—This show took place on the 19th of May, and was a decided success in every department of floral and horticultural productions. The Azaleas were really magnificent, and for the benefit of your readers, I give the names of some of the varieties to which prizes were awarded. First prize for twelve Azaleas, to A. Lawrence, Esq., Rosa punctata, Sinensis, Iveryana, Conspicua Purpurea, Ardens Vivicans, Rubra pleno, Exquisita, Minerva, Refulgens, Gledstanesii, and Triumphans. These plants were very fine, in every respect, so much so that it was intended to have exhibited them at the Crystal Palace, the Saturday following, but, unfortunately, the conveyance was overturned on their way home from the Sidney Gardens, and the plants very much damaged. The second prize for twelve was awarded to G. C. Tugwell, Esq., for Aurora, Bianca, Delecta, Exquisita, Gledstanesii, Duke of Devonshire, Præstantissima, Vesta, Variegata, Coronata, and Perryana. The first prize for nine varieties, to the Rev. C. D. Rhodes, amongst which the following were very fine:—Gledstanesii, Extrani, Alba lutescens, Refulgens, Optima, and Variegata. The second prize was awarded to Mr. Chaffin, and the 3rd to Mr. J. Griffin, nurseryman, Bath. There were several other collections exhibited, of six and three varieties, but the kinds did not differ very much from those already noticed. Of stove and greenhouse plants there was a very good display, and I noticed some very fine specimens, amongst which was the beautiful Rhododendron Javanicum, from Mr. A. Lawrence, a very fine Rhododendron Gibsonii, and a good plant of Conoclinium ianthinum, both from the same gentleman. I also noticed a very fine plant of Boronia Drummondii, and Pimelias, Tetrathecas, and everlastings in abundance. Of Heaths there were many fine plants, amongst which I noticed some very good Cavendishiis, Devoniana, and Elegans. Of Geraniums, Calceolarias, Cinerarias, Ferns, Orchids, and plants with variegated foliage, there were many fine collections, but, in consequence of the crowded state of the tents, it was impossible to form a correct estimate of them. Of fruit there was a more than usual display. Prizes were awarded to W.

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Long, Esq., M.P. and the Marquis of Bath, for Pines; to H. G. G. Ludlow, Esq., Heywood House, and Mr. Mason, for Grapes; to W. Dobson, Esq., for Melons; to Mr. Trollop, J. Wiltshire, Esq., Sir Claude Scott, and Mrs. Harding, for Strawberries. Although there were great quantities of Strawberries shown, they consisted, with scarcely an exception, of Trollop's Victoria. The show of cut flowers, Tulips, Roses, Pansies, &c., was really good, and the vegetables quite kept up the celebrated name Bath has obtained for this kind of produce. Taking the show altogether, I have not seen a better one, either in or out of London. The visiters to the Sidney Gardens, during the day, were between eight and nine thousand, so that the committee did not suffer in a pecuniary point of view. The band of the Coldstream Guards was in attendance, much to the delight of the company.—W. S.

## Our Miscellany.

FROM information we have received, we understand a tremendous thunderstorm visited Derbyshire, on the 15th of June, doing great damage at Chatsworth House. The roof of the orangery, connected with the house, is completely riddled. The Camellia house, conservatory walls, and the extensive ranges of pits, are all very much injured; but the Great Conservatory, from its peculiar construction of ridge and furrow, suffered much less in proportion than any other glass structure about the place, and the same rule applies to all the ridge and furrow roof, both at Chatsworth and at the gardens,—the proportion of the breakage being in these cases about one-tenth, but in the roof at least nine-tenths. At the gardens, the devastation is complete; the whole of the forcing houses, glazed in the usual way, are an entire wreck, scarcely a whole square remaining, the ice even cutting through the canvass shades, which, in many instances, covered the lights. The Vines in the houses were also sadly cut, the leaves and fruit being separated as with a sharp knife. The fruit trees in the open ground have also heavily suffered, and Cabbages and vegetables growing in the cottagers' gardens, are perforated through and

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through, as if by thousands of caterpillars. Many of the stones were as much as six inches in circumference, and the general size of all the large pieces was from an inch to an inch-and-a-half in diameter. The day had been remarkably hot, the thermometer, at one time, reaching eighty-five, in the shade.

NATIONAL TULIP SHOWING.—Several of the fancy, especially among my north country friends, who have at length fallen in with my opinion, have suggested the propriety of dividing—no, not exactly dividing, but holding two exhibitions each year, one for the south and one for the north, the growers in each locality to choose their own committee, fix their own time, &c. No; I would not suggest that there should be any division whatever between the north and south country growers. I would have but one head, one fund, and, after the time allowed for exhibiters to send in their subscriptions, put all the moneys together, make out the two schedules, dividing the amount equally between them, and leave both shows open to all, so that the northern growers may exhibit at the south show, if they think well, and the southern growers at the north show, if it suits them; the midlanders, of course, will be right for one, if not both exhibitions; and depend upon it, if this were carried out as it might be, it would act as a stimulus, and instead of the National Tulip Show dwindling away to nothing, where there is now one subscriber, there would be three. The place fixed on for the southern show, next year, is well suited for the purpose. I should think all who can make it convenient, will avail themselves of the opportunity of visiting such a magnificent place, as the Slough Nursery; even Mr. Turner's Tulips, alone, will be a pleasing sight to any of the fancy. If I might be allowed, I would suggest that the new Town Hall, at Leeds, would be a magnificent place in which to hold the northern show. The National Show was first started at Leeds, where I had the honour of being a member, and, should I be spared, I should like to have



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the opportunity again, although I may not have a flower left at the time. I trust the above will meet the approbation of at least two-thirds of the fancy and the friends of floriculture generally.—JOHN HEPWORTH.

EARLY STRAWBERRIES.—In visiting Mr. Nicholson's gardens, at Egglescliffe, near Yarm, Yorkshire, on the 29th of May, we were very much surprised to find that he had fine ripe Strawberries growing in the open ground. The sort, Mr. N. informed us, is a seedling, which promises to be a fortnight earlier than any of the older early sorts. The fruit is scarlet, of good flavour, and the size of Black Prince; it is a free grower, very hardy and a good bearer, and cannot fail to be a very desirable and most useful sort.—BENJAMIN EDEN, *gardener to T. W. Waldy, Esq., Egglescliffe;* GEORGE COLTHARTS, *gardener to T. Meynell, Esq., the Frirage, Yarm.*

## Opinions on Flowers, &c.

AN AMATEUR, E. T.—SEEDLING PANSIES.—Neither of your yellow ground flowers is decided enough in colour. The three light ground varieties are nice flowers. No. 3 is the best. Should like to see it again.—JOHN DOBSON.

C. S., *Berwickshire.*—SEEDLING PANSIES.—*West Australian* is a fine yellow self, with dense eye, good shape and substance. No. 1, dark seedling, is also a good self. *Susan* will make a good summer light ground variety, being a large flower, with good substance and shape, and decided colours. *Novelty* will not do, it is too rough. The Cineraria has nothing in it to recommend it, except its white eye.—JOHN DOBSON.

G. WEBSTER, N. L.—Out of all the seven breeders, I can only see one worth caring for. No. 23 is pure and a nice colour, as a Rose, but narrow-petaled and too long in the cup. All the others are worthless. The three petals of the feathered bizarre look very nice, but I must see all the six, upon the stem, before I can give an opinion.—J. HEPWORTH.

J. MEDE.—Your *Advance* is a pretty byblœmen breeder, and if it break well, may be an advance upon many flowers out, being perfectly pure, with a fine base, stout petal, and fine shape.—J. HEPWORTH.

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# Notes and Queries.

LUPINS.—A young beginner says, last year his Lupins were blue, and the seed from them has produced, this year, flowers of a light pink, and wants the cause explained. We cannot account for it in any other way than by crossing. The old pink Lupin was common enough, but it was an annual. We have had the seeds from the dark blue *Lupinus polyphyllus* sport into all the shades of blue and white, but we never knew any to come pink. Is the young beginner quite certain of the fact? Was the blue Lupin an annual? Were there any of the old pink Lupins in the neighbourhood? Was there no chance of the seed having been changed? It may seem a curious way of answering a question, to ask half-a-dozen others, but the fact is curious. Is there any thing peculiar in the soil? Iron will change the Hydrangea from pink to blue, and suppose seed could be saved from the blue, they would undoubtedly produce plants of the natural colour. If the soil in which they came blue were impregnated with iron, the seeds of the pink Lupin might possibly come blue, like the Hydrangea, and if there were none in the part of the ground where the seed from the blue was afterwards sown, they might come their natural colour; but without knowing what Lupin it is, ours is all guess-work, and all we can say is, it was a very strange alteration. By the by, we have the new *Lupinus Menziesii*, in flower, and a very noble yellow flower it is. This may give us some curious novelties, by crossing, but none so curious as the seed of blue producing a pink variety.

Will Mr. Busby give me his advice? I have a greenhouse, and I have four Vines, a Sweetwater, a Muscat, and two Hamboroughs. I am sorry to say, that the bunches are beginning to be covered with a sort of white mildew. Some of the leaves, too, have the same appearance. One friend advises me to sulphur, another to syringe. Last year but one, my Grapes were very bad; last year, they were all right; but this year, they are again going wrong. If it is too late to remedy it this time, Mr. B.'s advice may do for next season. The roots of my Vines are out-of-doors, but the stems enter the house immediately they get above the ground. They bear well, although rather old. Would a change of plants be of any use?—AN AMATEUR IN TROUBLE.

# Calendar of Operations.

AURICULAS.—From the 15th to the 30th of July is the the best time for repotting, to ensure a fine bloom the following spring. To drive this part of the business till the latter end of August or September, is not so well. The plants have not time sufficient to establish themselves,

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before winter sets in, when they go to sleep, as it were, with half a bellyful, and when they awake, they have not pluck in them, like those which have had time to feed themselves well, before the cold and stormy weather set in. In potting, shake all the old mould entirely from the roots, and where the carrot root has got rather long, with a sharp knife, cut a goodly part of it off, and shorten the long fibrous roots, so as to be within half-an-inch or so from touching the edges of the pots. Do not sift the mould too fine, leave it a little rough, the roots and fibres like round lumpy stuff best. If it please the eye better, a small quantity of stuff may be sifted a little finer, just to top-up with. For all the dark holly-leaved green plants, make use of the hardest burnt pots; for the light flowery-leaved, use those that are not quite so hard. Auriculas, generally, ought to have hard, clean, well-burnt, strong pots. Lancashire pots are, for the purpose, the best and most suitable I ever met with.—JOHN HEPWORTH, *Lea Bridge-road, Leyton.*

AZALEAS which were forced for the purpose of producing an early winter bloom, should be placed in the open air, in a cool sheltered situation, for if left too long, after they have set their flower buds, in a high artificial temperature, they will, in all probability, make a second growth, which is highly detrimental, if not quite fatal, to the production of next year's bloom. Encourage a free growth in the young stock, and all plants going out of bloom, by placing them in a rather high and humid atmosphere. Pay particular attention to watering in-doors and out.—EDWARD CLEETON, *gardener to E. Holland, Esq., M.P., Dumbleton.*

CARNATIONS AND PICOTEES.—Regulate the number of buds, and tie up the advanced ones, as directed for Pinks, only, that when you have tied them, you may tear down the calyx from the top to the tie, and thus release the petals all round alike. Prepare the card also, and regulate the petals as they perfect themselves. The shoots at the bottom may be either layered, if they are long enough to bend down under the soil, or pulled off and piped, like Pinks, if they are short, only that they must be struck with a slight bottom heat, under a hand-glass, instead of in the cold open ground. They are thus layered. Cut off the leaves, all but those on the three upper joints, about a third of an inch below the second knot or joint under those leaves, which would be three inches from the top, and on the bottom side of the stem, cut a slit, sloping upwards, towards the middle of it, passing the knife through the joint, but carefully abstain from coming more than half-way through the stem; then, as carefully cut off the piece that is below the joint, on the outside, so as to cut close up to it. This done, stir up the soil in the pot, and mix some sand with it; peg this layer down into the soil below the surface, so that the plant will, with the split joint attached to it, be exactly upright, and the split will be open; press the earth gently about it, and so proceed with

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more; water and set them by, to finish their bloom, and till these layers strike root. Any gardener will, for a trifle, show you how to do this, and it is simple enough to perform, though it requires practice. The best pegs are made of Fern, but any twig that will form a hooked stick in miniature, four inches long, will do.

CHRYSANTHEMUMS.—Border plants, not intended for specimens or large flowers, should be well tied up. The centre, if four or five in a patch, should be kept open, and the ground be slightly forked, and have a thin mulching of rotten dung, or any other decayed manure, to prevent the hot weather destroying the bottom foliage, not forgetting to use the watering-pot freely, every evening. Cuttings of both large and small varieties, if put in now, will come in for late blooming, and make good stock for next year also. The blight is doing its mischief freely, this hot weather. Use plenty of tobacco water and soft soap, by sprinkling it in the crowns, when they are too strong to be dipped, without danger of breaking. The large specimens should be examined every day, and all side shoots taken off, leaving three or four, at top. When the crown divides, give a little liquid manure, such as cow dung, &c. Keep tying down and stopping Pompones, spreading out your plant as wide as possible. Never fear leaving the centre its share to fill up. Water twice a-day, this hot weather, by sprinkling the foliage every evening. Don't neglect watering an hour, if possible. If five joints from last stop, stop again immediately, to get a break, before the wood becomes too ripe and hard.—S. BROOME, F.H.S., *Temple Gardens.*

CINERARIAS.—The necessity for getting strong plants early, to ensure a good bloom, is a subject too often overlooked, therefore, we cannot do better than advise seed to be sown at once, if not already done, and the old bottoms should be started, without delay. The seed being small, a little extra care in sowing is required, to prevent it being put too deep. The best way is to fill the pot with light rich soil, and, after lightly pressing the mould down even, with something smooth, sow the seed on the surface, regularly, and then sift some silver sand over it, through a fine hair sieve. After a careful watering, place the pot in a moist warm house, but not exposed to the sun. To prevent the mould drying, put a piece of paper over the pot. After the seed is up, harden the plants off, by degrees. Cuttings that have rooted, may be potted off into small pots, in some good soil, and placed in a cold frame. Cuttings, or offsets, of sorts it is desirable to increase, may still be put in.—JOHN DOBSON, *Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth.*

DAHLIAS.—No exertion must be spared to promote the growth of these plants, for the quicker the growth the finer the flowers. If the ground between the plants was not forked over last month, let it be done immediately, adding a good supply

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of decayed manure. If the ground is in good power, and placing the manure on the surface is not thought too unsightly, I prefer that plan, and then frequent watering the plants overhead, and the manure at the same time. Frequently examine the centre of the shoots, to keep the plants free from insects. Thin out the branches, to get the plants in proper form for staking out. To effect this, take four side shoots, as near the ground as possible, and above these remove two or more shoots, according to the growth of the plants. Short-jointed plants will require more, but from those that are long-jointed, two will be sufficient. As these branches advance in growth, tie each shoot to a small stake. This will prevent them from being broken down, till they can be secured to the main stake. As the plants advance, give water in greater quantities; in dry weather, no reasonable quantity will be too much. Place small pots, with a little moss inside, upon the stakes, as a trap for earwigs. Examine them once a-week.—R. EDWARDS, *Nuthall.*

EPACRISES.—Plants that have nearly completed their growth, should be placed in a sheltered situation, where they can be protected from the mid-day sun and drenching rains. Set the pots inside of other pots, two sizes larger, and place some moss between the two pots, to keep the fibres from being scorched by the hot sun. Water thoroughly, and give none until again wanted. Encourage free growth in all young seedlings and cuttings, so as to allow of the young wood becoming perfectly ripened before winter.—EDWARD CLEETON, *gardener to E. Holland, Esq., M.P., Dumbleton.*

FORCING DEPARTMENT.—*Early Vinery.*—Where Grapes are ripening, give them plenty of air, and leave a portion of top air on at nights. Gradually diminish sprinkling with water, but don't leave off altogether, or the foliage will suffer, and this should be especially attended to, to keep the foliage healthy, until the fruit is perfected and the wood thoroughly matured for bearing next year. Keep the floor, shelves, &c. scrupulously clean, and clear out all plants in pots, as they engender red-spider, thrip, &c.——*Late Vinery* —Where the Grapes are required for very late use, the berries should be so thinned that they will hardly touch, or it will be impossible to keep them. Attend to stopping the lateral shoots, and do it regularly and while they are in a young state. To prevent the circulation being too much impeded, by too severely stopping, allow the leading shoot to grow on, without stopping. Presuming that Azaleas and other flowering plants have been growing here, as soon as their flower buds are formed, remove them out-of-doors, where they will be partially shaded. They will be much benefitted, and it will relieve the house from danger of insects. Even stove plants, if they have completed their growth, would be benefitted by the change, if kept in the shade. Attend to sprinkling often, this bright weather; and where the roots are near the top of the border, or planted

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inside, see they don't suffer for want of moisture.——*Peach House.*—These will require constant attention. Thin out the wood that is not required for next year, and keep the remainder tied in, that it may not shade the fruit, which should all be, if possible, on the top of the trellis, as Peaches without colour are thought very little of. Give the trees a good washing with the syringe, every evening, and sprinkle under the trellis, in the morning, till the fruit begins ripening.—M. Busby, F.H.S.

Fruit Garden.—Protect ripening fruit from the ravages of insects. Laying in the shoots of Peaches and Nectarines, if not already done, should be attended to, that the fruit may receive as much sun as possible. See that newly-planted Strawberries do not suffer for want of water.—William Shipley, *Westbury, Wilts.*

Fuchsias.—These are now in perfection, and whether grown as small plants, for decorative purposes, or as large specimens, for exhibition, they are alike useful and interesting. The white corolla variety, Princess of Prussia, appears to be the best blooming kind in its class. Among light and dark kinds, nothing has been shown superior to those recommended at the beginning of the season. Little is necessary in the shape of directions; keeping the plants well watered, and shaded being the only things necessary. Late-flowering plants should receive their final repotting at once.—John Dobson, *Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth.*

Heathery.—Remove all flower and seed pods, directly they become unsightly. When the plants have commenced their growth, repot them, if necessary, set them in suitable situations, and, for sometime, water must be applied with caution. In potting, give liberal drainage, as stagnation is ruinous to the Erica.—E. Cleeton, *gardener to E. Holland, Esq., M.P., Dumbleton.*

Kitchen Garden.—Sow early a good breadth of Cabbage seed, to plant out, for winter use, in the shape of Coleworts. Wheeler's Imperial, or Atkin's Matchless, are the best sorts. Get out plenty of different sorts of winter plants; also plenty of Celery. See that Celery already out does not suffer for want of water. Keep down weeds by every means, and, where not already done, clip box edgings. Attend to out-door Cucumbers, and nail and thin out Tomatoes, as they set. Sow a good quantity of Endive and Lettuce, for autumn and winter.—William Shipley, *Westbury, Wilts.*

Pansies.—The weather has been unusually hot and dry, and the plants have suffered very much in some places. Abundance of water, to the whole of the stock, is essential to their well-being, Young stock must be kept clear of weeds, and may be increased as desired. Side shoots, with a little root to them, will be found to succeed the best. Seed may be gathered as soon as ripe, and must be carefully watched. Seedlings which

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have not been bedded out, will bloom well in the autumn, if planted out at once.—JOHN DOBSON, *Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth.*

PELARGONIUMS.—Many of the plants will have done flowering, and should be placed out-of-doors, and carefully supplied with water, but not allowed to have a thorough soaking, as that is, to a certain extent, the cause of the spot. Being placed out-of-doors, the plants ripen their wood, previous to being cut down, which may be proceeded with, as soon as the plants are ready. Before cutting down, however, let the plants become dry, that they may not bleed. As soon as the shoots are healed over, a little water, just sufficient to moisten the earth, may be given. Keep them close for a few days, which will cause the eyes to break freely and strong. As soon as the eyes are pushed a little, give abundance of air, but protect from wind and rain, when necessary. Cuttings of any kinds may be made from the tops, putting them five or six in a pot. They strike readily at this season.—JOHN DOBSON, *Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth.*

POMPONE CHRYSANTHEMUMS should now be put into their blooming pots, if not already there, taking care to secure good drainage. If any plants do not take the water freely, thrust a stout wire three or four times through the centre of the ball in which they grow. Attend to stopping and pegging down, twisting, or tying out, whichever system may be practised, so as to make the plant of the shape required. As the twig is bent, so will the plant be inclined. Cooling liquid manure of cow dung, may now be freely given to those plants which have filled their pots with roots. Attend to watering overhead, morning and evening, or mid-day, if the sun is kept from them, for much depends upon frequent waterings, during hot weather, to retain good foliage. Give a sharp look-out for slugs, as these pests have been very busy of late, and will continue so, if not destroyed. Should the greenfly make its appearance, take an ounce of tobacco and tie it in a piece of muslin, let it soak in a pail of water for twelve hours, and then syringe the plants with the water. This is a sure cure, if frequently applied, say once a week; and should there not be fly, prevention is better than cure.—JAMES HOLLAND, *gardener to R. W. Peake, Esq., Spring Grove, Hounslow.*

ROSES.—As out-door Roses go out of bloom, thin out all shoots that grow inwards. Give liberal supplies of liquid manure, and keep the plants clean, by frequent syringing, and, if necessary, fumigating. This will ensure a fine autumn bloom. *In pots,* keep them growing. Every thing depends on a clean and healthy growth. Without this, you must not expect a good bloom next season. Cuttings of the China Roses may be struck, under hand-glasses, in the open air. Budding may be proceeded with. If the Briers will not run well, water them for a few nights. Never insert a bud till the bark parts freely from the wood.—HENRY DAVIES, *Great Stanmore.*

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# Jottings from an Amateur's Note Book.

NEXT to the pleasure of growing a plant satisfactorily, is, assuredly, the pleasure of speaking or writing about it to our floral friends. In the *Midland Florist*, we have been favoured with a discussion on the Rose Gloire de Dijon, and how to have it in flower on the 12th of August. I have no wish to interfere in this discussion, but would merely like to bring under the notice of my amateur friends a short description of a plant of this Rose, which I have grown in a small span-roofed greenhouse. In the spring of 1856, I purchased a small plant of Gloire de Dijon, from an Edinburgh nurseryman, on the faith that it was bright orange (!), as described in the Rose catalogues of the day; and although its colour is only salmon fawn, it is a splendid Rose. The plant was very small, and when it arrived, it was potted in a four-inch pot, in a compost of good adhesive loam, with a slight admixture of leaf mould, and the pot plunged in sand, in a spent hotbed. It grew luxuriantly, and when the pot became full of roots, it was changed for a larger one, until the plant was finally consigned to an eight-inch pot, and removed to the greenhouse. It was placed at the back of the bench, in a corner of the house. About this time, the plant made a clear shoot, thirty-eight inches in length; this was trained up the back and along the side of the house, as far as it would reach. Every bit of wood but this shoot was removed. The point of the shoot



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was pinched, and it began to break. Every bud but three was rubbed off, and these three buds furnished me with three shoots, which were in turn trained under three of the astragals of the roof, till the ridge was attained. One reached the ridge, the other scarcely came so far. The shoot that reached the ridge is sixty-eight inches from the pot. At this stage of the proceedings, winter arrived, and a Rose at the point of two of these shoots was all I got for that season's growth. Early next spring, Gloire de Dijon gave evidence of strong growth, and the shoots trained under the astragals sent out about twenty short shoots, or spurs, with a fine promising flower bud upon each. The soil, to the depth of several inches, was now removed from the top of the pot, and replaced with a very rich top-dressing, composed of half loam and half manure, and the pot was also mulched I now saw that I had a fine healthy plant, and the prospect of bloom in abundance. In the month of May, my efforts were rewarded by a most beautiful display of blooms—the admiration of every one—pendent from the roof, and perfuming the greenhouse with their delicate odour. This continued for about a month, with a slight attention to shading, and when over, with the rose pruners, the spurs were shortened to three eyes, which was no sooner done than the Rose again put forth luxuriantly, both leaves and buds. On this occasion, more shoots, spurs, and a second crop of thirty blooms, were the result, in August. I really cannot recollect, but it does not matter, if there were any fit for exhibition on the 12th. At the conclusion of the bloom, as before, I cut to the next eye behind the flower, and owing, I suppose, to the fine autumn, I cut several most beautiful Roses, in December, being the third crop of bloom for 1857. These blooms were most superb, large, and of the finest colour, approaching orange in the centre, and shaded from salmon to fawn. This was a hint, how much shading, at a sunny season, would improve the colour of the blooms, and of this I have availed myself. There being little sun at that season, the blooms got

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no shading, except from the roof under which they were grown, and which is glazed with Hartley's patent plate glass. With the same management—rich top-dressing and the addition of plentiful waterings with weak guano water, in the proportion of an ounce to six gallons of water, this spring, Gloire de Dijon has brought to perfection thirty-five beautiful blooms, which hung in festoons from the roof, and realized to my mind, very nearly what constitutes perfection in the Rose—fine shape and quality of petal, distinct colour, delicate odour, and freedom of flowering. The Roses continued in great beauty from the second week in May till the third week in June; and, after merely cutting off the faded blooms to the next eye, this morning (the 9th of July), I counted thirty-three flower buds, which I have no doubt would furnish a basket of Roses on the 12th of August, as there are many very small, and will require that time to bring them to maturity. Thus I have endeavoured to give my experience of Gloire de Dijon, which, I should say, requires no further praise from me. For obtaining blooms of the largest size, plants from cuttings, struck in the spring of the previous year, are most suitable. From a plant so managed, this year, I have had Roses as large as the old Cabbage Rose, and so double, that it required all the sun they could get to open them. This plant has thrown up a whiplike shoot, thirty-eight inches long, which is destined to be trained like the one just described. The same style of training can be carried out in the greenhouse, with any Rose that has the disposition to throw out these long shoots. I have Charles Lawson and Solfaterre trained in the same way; and in our humid climate, the only really satisfactory way to grow Roses is under glass, or on a wall. Talking of Roses, I had a few of the newer varieties sent me, in the depth of winter, and was afraid, at that season, to trust them to the severity of the weather. Some were tall standards. I always understood they would not do at all in pots, but rather than leave them to the tender mercies of the elements, I determined to try. So potted they were, in

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good rich compost, in eight-inch pots, the holes in the bottom of the pots enlarged, and the plants placed in a fruit house, upon a prepared border. The pots were half plunged, and, as I suppose, the roots have found the way out of the pots into the border, and the plants have grown and flowered luxuriantly. Wm. Griffiths has bloomed beautifully, and is a splendid Rose, of a pale satiny pink colour, and has many first-class qualities. It is a genuine novelty, and should be cultivated by every Rose grower. Louise Odier is a marvel of shape and refinement; indeed, with regard to shape, it is the finest Rose I have seen, and is well worthy of extended cultivation. Marshal Pelissier, Jules Margottin, Prince Leon, Vicomtesse de Cazes, Mathurin Regnier, Auguste Mie, Louis Napoleon, Lord Raglan, Madame Lamoriciere, General Jacqueminot (the finest in colour), and the good old favourites, Geant des Batailles, Baronne Prevost, William Jesse, Madame Laffay, Coupe d'Hebe, Devoniensis, Souvenir de la Malmaison, &c., have all bloomed finely, this pre-eminently sunny summer, and afforded unbounded satisfaction to your humble servant.

C. S.

*Berwickshire, N.B.*

## Cultivation of the Sweetwilliam.

IN offering a few observations on the cultivation of the Sweetwilliam, I will be as concise and plain as possible. After twenty-four years' experience, I find the best method is not to sow seed before the middle of May, for if sown earlier, the plants produce laterals so strong, that each one throws up a blooming stem; and when this is the case, in almost every instance, the plant is so exhausted that no side shoots are produced, either for cuttings, or to remain for blooming another year; but if seed be sown at the time stated, the plants do not become too strong, and in the spring, throw up

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one stem only, with a fine large truss of bloom and plenty of laterals, which can be taken off and placed under a hand-glass, where they will strike very freely.

As soon as the young plants are large enough, they should be transplanted from the seedling bed, to the place where they are to bloom, for they are impatient of removal, especially if they be large and old. They will do well in any soil, but best in a loamy one, with a small portion of road grit mixed with it. I believe the Sweetwilliam to be naturally perfectly hardy, but I must state, that in increased ratio with the improvement of the bloom, as to its desired character, so has been its liability to sustain injury from excessive rain, and especially when sharp frost and withering north-easterly winds succeed. Let the plants be put in a situation where they can be protected, if not from the rain, at least from the cold easterly winds, which so frequently prevail in the months of February and March. Great care should be taken to keep the soil free from wire-worm, and in the month of September, the plants should be looked over every morning, and frequently at night, for at this period, many plants are destroyed by a large ash-coloured grub,—the cockchaffer grub, I believe it to be. Many times, on visiting the bed in a morning, I have found plants eaten asunder, and on removing the mould around the stem, about an inch below the surface, have generally succeeded in finding the secreted enemy, on which, of course, with much delight, a stamped impression has been promptly made.

In spring, as soon as the plants begin to grow, the ground should be top-dressed with some old frame manure, and carefully forked in between the plants. As the stems begin to rise, a stick should be placed to each, and the stem fastened to it, otherwise they are very likely to be broken by the wind; and should the weather be dry, they will require a good supply of water just previous to and during the period of blooming.

In conclusion, I would beg to state, for the information of those who have purchased plants or seed, that they must not expect every plant to be up to the



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standard, viz., round, smooth on the edge, and the colours distinct; for, with all the careful attention I have for years bestowed on them, and the great improvement which has been realized, mine have not been all up to the mark; yet I am fully persuaded that a proportionate number of them, sufficiently great to compensate for the outlay, will perfectly justify the character which they have acquired, and satisfy the reasonable expectations of every purchaser. I do truthfully assert, that no particle of seed, nor a single plant, of any choice variety, shall be reserved, but, as far as I can make it, it shall be an honourable and honest SEND OUT, by placing every purchaser in the same position as myself; and I fervently hope that every grower will be successful in further improving my old-fashioned pets.

JOSEPH HUNT.

*High Wycombe.*

## Mr. Hunt's Sweetwilliams.

MR. EDITOR, it is a long time since I had a finger in the pie, and now that my Sweetwilliams (from Mr. Hunt's seed) have nearly all bloomed, be so kind as to allow me a small space, to enable me to redeem my promise that I would do justice to the seed. I have the great pleasure of reporting, to the credit of Mr. Hunt, and for the encouragement and benefit of all concerned in their culture, that such extra large fleshy petals, rose-edged, and such splendid markings, of every design and the most deep and brilliant colours, were never before beheld by me; and many real connoisseurs, who have visited my garden, have exclaimed, in admiration, "How lovely and refined!" and declared them to far surpass any they had previously seen. A description by me of their varied beauties, is out of the question. Were I to attempt it, I might fill half a number of the

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*Midland Florist*, and even then fall short in my delineation of their good qualities. I can, therefore, conscientiously advise all who love this gem, not to lose the golden opportunity of procuring the advertised plants or seeds from the hands of Mr. Hunt.

JOHN CUNNINGHAME.

*Brookfield Cottage, Kilbarchan.*

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# Peas at the Horticultural Society's Gardens, CHISWICK.

FOR the information of our readers, we give an extract from returns made by the late lamented Mr. George M'Ewen, the superintendent of the gardens, and which were published in the report of the council of the Horticultural Society, at the late anniversary.

*Alliance*, presented by Mr. Wrench.—Sown April 27, in bloom June 10, fit for use July 1; height 2½ feet, 6 in pod, 5 on stem, moderate habit.

*Alliance*, presented by Messrs. Lawson.—The same as the former in every respect.

*Alliance*, presented by Mr. Dancer.—Sown April 27, in bloom June 10, fit for use July 1; height 2 feet, 6 and 7 in pod, 5 on stem, moderately strong habit.

*Auvergne*, presented by Messrs. Lawson.—Sown April 27, in bloom June 10, fit for use July 1; height 3 feet, 5 and 6 in pod, 4 on stem, vigorous habit.

*Banksian Marrow*, presented by Messrs. Wrench.—Sown April 27, in bloom June 10, fit for use July 11; height 2 feet, 6 in pod, 5 on stem, useful Pea.

*Beck's Gem (Second Early)*, presented by Messrs. Bass & Brown.—Sown April 27, in bloom June 10, fit for use July 1; height 1½ foot, 5 and 6 in pod, 4 on stem, dwarf and bushy habit, white.

*Bedman's Imperial*.—Sown May 2, in bloom June 10, fit for use July 16; height 4 feet, 6 and 7 in pod, 5 on stem, healthy and strong habit, excellent colour, and good bearer.

*Bellamy's Green Marrow*, presented by Messrs. Wrench.—Sown April 27, in bloom June 10, fit for use July 11; height 3 to 4 feet, 7 and 8 in pod, 7 on stem, vigorous habit, excellent Pea, very sweet.

*Bishop's Longpod Dwarf*, presented by Messrs. Wrench.—Sown April 27, in bloom June 10, fit for use July 1; height 2 feet, 6 in pod, 6 on stem, healthy and strong habit.

*Blue Perfection*, presented by Mr. Wrench.—Sown April 27, in bloom June 10, fit for use July 1; height 2½ feet, 6 in pod, 5 on stem, very fair cropper, white.

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*Blue Prussian*, presented by Messrs. Lawson.—Sown May 2, in bloom June 21, fit for use July 18; height 3 feet, 7 in pod, 6 and 7 on stem, good green colour. Appears the same as Beck's Gem.

*Blue Prussian (True)*, from seed saved in the garden.—Sown April 27, in bloom June 1, fit for use July 4; height 2½ feet, 6 in pod, 6 on stem, vigorous habit and good colour.

*British Queen*, presented by Mr. Kernan.—Sown May 2, in bloom June 10, fit for use July 18; height 3 feet, 7 in pod, 6 on stem, not heavy habit, best colour.

*Burbidge's Eclipse.*—Sown May 2, in bloom June 27, fit for use July 21; height 3 ft., 6 in pod, 6 on stem, colour good, prolific habit.

*Champion (Early)*, presented by Mr. Kernan.—Sown April 27, in bloom May 27, fit for use July 4; height 3 feet, 7 in pod, 7 on stem, large pod and vigorous habit.

*Champion of England*, presented by Mr. Carter.—Sown May 2, in bloom June 27, fit for use July 18; height 4 to 5 feet, 7 and 8 in pod, 8 on stem, prolific habit, large pods.

*Champion of England*, presented by Messrs. Lawson.—Sown May 2, in bloom June 17, fit for use July 11; height 3 feet, excellent colour and good cropper.

*Champion of Scotland*, presented by Messrs. Lawson.—Sown May 2, in bloom June 21, fit for use July 18; height 6 feet, 7 and 8 in pod, 6 and 7 on stem, strong grower, large pods.

*Charlton (Early)*, presented by Mr. Carter.—Sown May 2, in bloom June 10, fit for use July 1; height 3 to 4 feet, 7 in pod, 6 on stem, good habit.

*Conqueror (Early)*, presented by Mr. Rendle.—Sown May 2, in bloom June 10, fit for use July 4; height 3½ feet, 6 and 7 in pod, 6 on stem, pods green and prolific habit.

*Cottrell's Wonder*, presented by Mr. Cottrell.—Sown April 27, in bloom June 10, fit for use July 11; height 3 feet, 8 and 9 in pod, 6 on stem, good Pea, prolific habit, and good colour.

*Danecroft Rival*, presented by Messrs. Lawson.—Sown May 2, in bloom June 10, fit for use July 1; height 2½ feet, 6 in pod, 5 on stem, not a very heavy cropper, but good colour.

*D Auvergne*, presented by Messrs. Vilmorin, Paris.—Sown April 27, in bloom June 10, fit for use July 11; height 3 to 4 feet, 7 and 8 in pod, 5 on stem, good Pea, white.

*Dickson's Favourite*, presented by Messrs. Bass & Brown.—Sown May 2, in bloom June 10, fit for use July 11; height three feet, 7 in pod, 5 on stem, vigorous habit, large pods, and prolific.

*Dwarf Green Mammoth*, presented by Mr. Kernan.—Sown May 2, in bloom June 10, fit for use July 11; height 2 feet, 6 in pod, 5 on stem, vigorous habit and good colour.

*Dwarf Sugar Loaf*, presented by Messrs. Lawson.—Sown May 2, in bloom June 15, fit for use June 18; height 2 feet, 5 in pod, 5 and 6 on stem, not very strong habit, colour good.

*Eastring's Early Dwarf*, presented by Messrs. Lawson.—Sown April 27, in bloom June 6, fit for use June 25; height 2 feet, 6 in pod, 6 on stem, white in colour, not very strong habit.

*Emperor (Early)*, presented by Mr. Wrench.—Sown April 27, in bloom June 6, fit for use June 25; height 2 to 3 feet, 6 in pod, 5 on stem, moderate grower, bears to the ground.

*Eugenie*, presented by Mr. Wrench.—Sown April 27, in bloom June 10, fit for use July 1; height 2 feet, 5 and 6 in pod, 5 on stem, dwarf and bushy habit.

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*Fairbeard's Nonpareil*, presented by Messrs. Bass & Brown.—Sown May 2, in bloom June 10, fit for use July 11; height 2 to 3 feet, 7 in pod, 5 on stem, white and good sized pods.

*Fairbeard's Surprise*, presented by Messrs. Lawson.—Sown May 2, in bloom June 20, fit for use July 15; height 3 to 4 feet, 7 in pod, 6 on stem, good cropper, but white.

*Fan Dwarf Marrow*, presented by Messrs. Lawson.—Sown May 2, in bloom June 21, fit for use July 18; height 2 feet, 4 and 5 in pod, 5 on stem, moderate habit, white pods.

*Flack's Victory*, presented by Mr. Carter.—Sown May 2, in bloom June 10, fit for use July 16; height 2 to 3 feet, 7 in pod, 7 on stem, vigorous habit, very productive.

*Frame (Early)*, presented by Mr. Carter.—Sown May 2, in bloom June 10, fit for use, July 1; height 3 to 4 feet, 6 and 7 in pod, 6 on stem, healthy, strong, and prolific habit, much the same as the Warwick.

*Glory of England*, presented by Mr. Carter.—Sown May 2, in bloom June 27, fit for use July 18; height 5 to 6 feet, 8 in pod, 8 on stem, vigorous habit, green both in haulm and pod, sweet.

*Goldfinder (Early wrinkled Marrow)*, presented by Messrs. Wrench. Sown April 27, in bloom June 10, fit for use July 16; height 2½ to 3 feet, 7 and 8 in pod, 6 on stem, green Pea, thin in pod, but fair size.

*Great Britain*, presented by Mr. Rendle.—Sown May 8, in bloom June 27, fit for use July 24; height 6 to 7 feet, 6 and 7 in pod, 6 on stem, strong grower and green in pod.

*Hairs's Dwarf Mammoth*, presented by Messrs. Lawson.—Sown April 27, in bloom June 10, fit for use July 1; height 2½ feet, 6 in pod, 5 on stem, free grower and good colour.

*Harrison's Glory*, presented by Messrs. Sutton, Veitch, and Lawson. —Sown April 27, in bloom June 10, fit for use July 1; height 3 feet, 6 and 7 in pod, 7 on stem, prolific habit.

*Harrison's Napoleon*, presented by Mr. Sutton.—Sown April 27, in bloom June 10, fit for use July 1; height 2 feet, 5 and 6 in pod, 5 on stem, vigorous habit and good sized pods, colour white.

*Harrison's Perfection*, presented by Messrs. Sutton, Veitch, and Lawson.—Sown April 27, in bloom June 10, fit for use July 1; height 3 feet, 6 and 7 in pod, 7 on stem, same habit as Glory, pods green.

*Improved Green Marrow*, presented by Mr. Rendle.—Sown May 8, in bloom June 16, fit for use July 11; height 3 feet, 6 and 7 in pod, 6 on stem, good colour in foliage and pods.

*King of the Marrows*, presented by Mr. Carter.—Sown May 2, in bloom June 27, fit for use July 18; height 5 to 6 feet, 9 in pod, 9 on stem, vigorous habit, large pods.

*Knight's Tall Blue*, presented by Mr. Carter.—Sown May 8, in bloom June 27, fit for use July 21; height 3 feet, 7 and 8 in pod, 7 on stem, strong and prolific habit.

*Lord Raglan*, presented by Mr. Veitch.—Sown May 2, in bloom June 10, fit for use July 18; height 2½ ft., 6 in pod, 6 on stem, sweet.

*Lynn's Prolific*, presented by Messrs. Lawson.—Sown May 2, in bloom June 27, fit for use July 21; height three feet, 6 and 7 in pod, 6 on stem, vigorous habit, bears from the ground.

*Mein's Paradise*, presented by Messrs. Bass & Brown—Sown May 2, in bloom June 10, fit for use July 11; height 2 to 3 feet, 7 in pod, 4 on stem, white pods and large.

*Milford Marrow*, presented by Messrs. Lawson.—Sown May 2, in bloom June 10, fit for use July 11; height four feet, 7 in pod, 6 on stem, strong habit and good colour.

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*Monarch*, presented by Messrs. Lawson.—Sown May 2, in bloom June 20, fit for use July 16; height 3 feet, 8 in pod, 6 on stem, sweet.

*Napoleon*, presented by Mr. Wrench.—Sown April 27, in bloom June 10, fit for use July 1; height 2¾ feet, 6 and 7 in pod, 4 on stem, moderate grower.

*Ne Plus Ultra*, presented by Messrs. Lawson.—Sown May 2, in bloom June 20, fit for use July 19; height three feet, 7 and 8 in pod, 7 on stem, strong grower, large pods.

*Nimble (Early)*, presented by Messrs. Wrench.—Sown April 27, in bloom June 10, fit for use July 1; height 2 feet, 6 and 7 in pod, 5 on stem, not very vigorous habit.

*Omar Pacha (Third Early)*, presented by Messrs. Lawson.—Sown May 2, fit for use July 1; height 3 to 4 feet, 6 and 7 in pod, 6 on stem, free grower, true white pod.

*Paradise Prolific*, presented by Messrs. Lawson.—Sown May 2, in bloom June 10, fit for use July 11; height 3 feet, 8 in pod, 6 on stem, good cropper, prolific habit, sweet and very large.

*Paul's Early Dwarf*, presented by Messrs. Lawson.—Sown May 2, in bloom June 10, fit for use July 11; height 3 feet, 6 and 7 in pod, 5 on stem, vigorous habit.

*Perfection*, presented by Mr. Wrench.—Sown April 27, in bloom June 10, fit for use July 1; height 2½ feet, 6 in pod, 5 on stem, fair cropper.

*Perfection Marrow*, presented by Messrs. Veitch.—Sown April 27, in bloom June 10, fit for use July 1; height three feet, 6 and 7 in pod, 6 on stem, good colour and vigorous habit.

*Pois Michaux Petit*, presented by Messrs. Vilmorin, Paris.—Sown April 27, in bloom June 10, fit for use July 1; height 2 to 3 feet, 6 and 7 in pod, 5 on stem, vigorous habit, good cropper, white.

*Prince Albert*, presented by Mr. Carter.—Sown May 2, in bloom June 10, fit for use July 1; height 3 feet, 6 and 7 in pod, 5 on stem, free grower and very productive.

*Prize-taker*, presented by Mr. Sutton.—Sown April 27, in bloom June 10, fit for use July 11; height 3 to 4 ft., good colour, prolific habit.

*Ringwood Marrow*, presented by Messrs. Bass & Brown.—Sown May 2, fit for use July 1; height 3 to 4 feet, 5 and 6 in pod, 6 on stem, good bearer, but deficient in colour.

*Royal Dwarf*, presented by Messrs. Lawson, appears the same as Dwarf Sugar Loaf.

*Sangster's No. 1*, own seed.—Sown April 27, in bloom June 6, fit for use June 25; height 3 feet, 6 and 7 in pod, 5 on stem, free grower, good colour, and perhaps the best early.

*Sebastopol (First Early)*, presented by Mr. Cottrell.—Sown April 27, in bloom June 6, fit for use June 25; height 2 feet, 6 in pod, 6 on stem, moderately strong habit, bears to the ground, good early Pea, probably the same as Sangster's No. 1.

*Scimetar*, presented by Mr. Kernan.—Sown May 2, in bloom June 4, fit for use July 11; height 3 feet, 6 in pod, 5 on stem, good colour and prolific habit.

*Shanley Pea*, presented by Messrs. Wrench.—Sown May 2, in bloom June 10, fit for use July 16; height 3 feet, 7 in pod, 7 on stem, good habit.

*Shilling's Grotto*, presented by Messrs. Lawson.—Sown May 2, fit for use July 1; height 3½ feet, 7 in pod, 6 on stem, vigorous habit and good Pea.

*Stubbs's Blue Marrow*, presented by Mr. Carter.—Sown May 2, in bloom June 20, fit for use July 16; height three feet, 8 in pod, 5 on stem, colour good.

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*Surprise (Early)*, presented by Messrs. Wrench.—Sown April 27, in bloom May 27, fit for use July 4; height 3 feet, 7 and 8 in pod, 6 on stem, moderate habit, pods white.

*Taylor's Prolific*, presented by Messrs. Lawson.—Sown May 2, in bloom June 10, fit for use July 1; height 3 to 4 feet, 6 in pod, 5 on stem, vigorous habit, fine large Pea, and well suited for marketing purposes.

*Thedan's Favourite*, presented by Messrs. Lawson.—Sown May 2, in bloom June 10, fit for use July 1; height 2½ feet, 6 and 7 in pod, good Pea, and prolific habit.

*The Rising Sun*, presented by Mr. Flanagan.—Sown April 27, in bloom June 1, fit for use July 1; height 3 to 4 feet, 7 and 8 in pod, 6 on stem, strong grower, good colour, large pod, prolific habit.

*Victoria*, presented by Mr. Kernan.—Sown April 27, in bloom June 27, fit for use July 18; height 3 to 4 feet, 6 and 7 in pod, 6 on stem, vigorous and prolific habit, sweet.

*Victoria Marrow*, seed saved in the garden.—Sown May 2, in bloom June 21, fit for use July 18; height 4 feet, 5 and 6 in pod, 6 on stem, vigorous and prolific habit, good colour.

*Ward's Incomparable*, presented by Mr. Carter.—Sown May 8, in bloom June 27, fit for use July 24; height 6 to 7 feet, 7 in pod, 7 on stem, vigorous habit.

*Warwick (Early)*, presented by Mr. Carter.—Sown May 2, in bloom June 10, fit for use July 1; height 3 to 4 feet, 6 and 7 in pod, 6 on stem, vigorous habit, haulm and pods good colour.

*Waterloo Marrow*, presented by Mr. Rendle.—Sown May 8, in bloom June 27, fit for use July 21; height 6 to 7 feet, 8 in pod, 7 on stem, strong habit and green in haulm and pod.

*White Dwarf Marrow*, presented by Mr. Rendle.—Sown May 8, in bloom June 20, fit for use July 16; height 2 feet, 7 and 8 in pod, 6 on stem, vigorous habit, and appears a good Pea.

*Woodford Marrow*, presented by Messrs. Bass & Brown.—Sown May 2, in bloom June 20, fit for use July 16; height 3 feet, 7 and 8 in pod, 6 on stem, vigorous habit, and appears a good Pea.

Out of one hundred and eleven sorts, these appeared to be the most important.

## My Stove, or Hothouse.

PERHAPS there is no period at which my stove looks so well furnished with flowers as just now; a good collection of Gloxinias, another, equally good, of Achimenes, and some of the best Gesnerias, give a brilliance and variety that nothing else will. In fact, they put ordinary stove plants into the shade; even the Orchids look poor, in the midst of so much bright colour. Of course, I have not been able to

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syringe, ever since these flowers opened; but I do what is nearly as good, I water the floors and pipes three or four times a day, and so keep a nice vapour, which settles gently on foliage and flowers, and refreshes them without doing mischief. I have been unwilling to disturb the plants, although I must give them one more shift. One of my favourite subjects in the hothouse makes but little show: I have Cucumbers growing up the rafters, and they bear well. One sort is the Essex Rival, a long Cucumber, oftener two feet long than less; the other is The Great Exhibition, or Weedon's Symmetry, almost the only Cucumber that has no neck nor handle, and which is nearly equal in thickness the whole length, but it does not grow longer than from twelve to fifteen inches, which, however, is what I call a good length for table. A Cucumber plant for each rafter forms a slight shade, rather beneficial than otherwise, while a constant supply of the fruit is very useful. Euphorbia jaquiniflora and splendens, of which I have some young plants, are just shifted from thumb pots to small sixties, or three-inch, for when you are growing up small plants, they ought to be changed as soon as the roots reach the side. They progress much faster with slight shifts, than they would in the larger pots. The reason is obvious. Every time a plant is watered, the soil is impoverished; consequently, every time fresh soil is given, the plant feels the benefit of it. Some years ago, the *Gardeners' Chronicle* advocated what was called the *one-shift system*, which was putting a small plant into a large pot, which none but a theorist would think of doing; but, notwithstanding it was denounced in the *Gazette*, there were some people stupid enough to follow the advice. Whole collections were destroyed, the most ludicrous disasters occurred. You might go into some places, belonging to very empty-headed people, and see a score or two of peck, or half-bushel pots, and a little plant, out of a thumb pot, stuck in the middle of each, the laughingstock of every practical man who saw them. First, the room they occupied was the same as plants three feet high; next, what

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condition could the soil be in, by the time the roots reached the side, say in two or three years? Why, every thing nourishing must be washed away. Of course, all who adopted the system paid dearly enough, in the loss of plants, besides the loss of time, and being laughed at and ridiculed by the sensible portion of writers. My Gloxinias and Achimenes, although blooming in eight-inch pots, have been shifted six times, before they came into them. But I should like any body to take two plants, quite small, and pot them in proper soil, one in a two-inch pot, and the other in an eight-inch pot. At first, the plant with the most room may do pretty well, but as soon as the roots of the small one reach the side, shift to a three-inch pot, and so on, from one size to another, until it is in the eight-inch pot. The effect on the two plants will be a fine lesson,—the one having fresh soil to root in at every shift, the other stuck in the same stuff, made poorer every time the plant was watered. I have tried the effect, to convince people who thought what a professor said must be true, and, therefore, could only be persuaded to the contrary by a positive experiment. It saves trouble certainly, if things stand out of doors, because every shift gives work, and on that account, people often avoid it, if they can, by missing one size; say, instead of shifting from a three-inch to a four, shift at once to a five. Most of my general stove plants are at rest, but young ones, growing up to specimens, are kept moving. I have sown Gloxinia seed, and Gesneria, with a view to get new varieties, but these things, besides wanting every care and attention, require the exercise of great patience. I ought not to forget half-a-dozen Cockscombs, grown from cuttings—the best way to grow them handsome—that may be said to be at their best, just now. They have half-a-dozen very large leaves and one large head, and people seeing them so dwarf, want my seed. They don't know that the Combs would have been tall and ugly, had I allowed them to grow their own way; but I cut their heads off, with eight leaves below each head. The two lower



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leaves I took off. They were then potted, without any roots, but watered well, covered with a hand-glass, put into bottom heat, and shaded. A few days gave them roots. I then shifted them from time to time, giving them plenty of heat and moisture. The leaves and bloom grow fast, but they never get tall. There is this peculiarity about the Cockscomb, the bloom continues to grow almost as long as you supply heat and moisture, without a check. It is by far the surest way to get handsome plants to strike the tops as soon as you can discover what form the bloom is likely to take. You may even allow them to starve in the seed pan, till they show their little buttons of flower. Six leaves are enough to be above the pot, and one joint below. I have no doubt that the plant does much better with its new roots than it could have done upon the old, independently of the preference given to a plant a foot high, instead of two feet.

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## The Calceolaria.

HERBACEOUS.

INTENDING growers of this beautiful and varied class of plants could not select a better time than the present for preparing them for growing on for the next season. Seedlings that have flowered, and appear likely to make attractive specimens, may be cut down at once, and a little of the mould may be taken off the surface and replaced with a top-dressing of good rich soil. Should the plants, however, be in pots smaller than forty-eights, they will not require it, but may be repotted into the same sized pots as the others. The plants must be placed in a cool frame, not exposed to the sun. Occasionally fumigate them, as upon this success greatly depends. Should any shoots appear starting into flower, they must be pinched back. Keep

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them moderately damp, and when established, give abundance of air. Few amateurs, however, prefer growing large specimens, as, for eighteenpence or so, a packet of seed may be had, giving an almost endless variety; and then there is the interest in watching them open, which repays the true florist far more than the few pounds given at an exhibition.

## SHRUBBY.

Objects for decoration are eagerly sought after, throughout the latter months of summer, and nothing, perhaps, is more suitable, and yet so little used as this class of Calceorarias. for, while it will be admitted that, for variety, we have nothing to equal the herbaceous kinds, as, from a single pod of seed, we can get fifty varieties, yet they are of short duration, compared with the others. Nice plants of either sorts may be grown in a single season, but to produce fine specimens of the shrubby kinds I have found the following plan to succeed; and I see no reason why, with care and attention, they should not be produced equal to any specimen plants of other classes; and in an exhibition, their rich colours, varied with others, would form an important feature, for the absence of yellow and brown, and the other peculiar shades is very much felt. But to proceed with my mode of cultivation. About the beginning of July, I select some healthy plants of each kind I intend to grow. I do not choose the largest, but those that are strong in the stem and likely to produce plenty of side shoots, when stopped back. I select a piece of ground, and plant them a little further apart than ordinary bedding stuff, stop them back, and allow them to throw up their first lot of bloom. When they have done flowering, pinch them off, and continue to pinch off all blooming wood, till about the end of September. By this time, handsome bushy hard plants will be formed. In October, say the second week, with 'as much care as possible, they must be taken up, with a good ball of earth, without disturbing the roots. I then pot them moderately firm,

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in some good soil, and in as small pots as the roots will allow of, without injury. After this, I place them in a frame, water them with a fine rose watering pot, and keep them close and shaded for a few days. As soon as they are established, I give them plenty of air, and keep them near the glass, when the lights are on. During the winter, they may be kept as cold as possible, guarding, of course, against frost. Greenfly must be kept down. These few simple directions are all that are necessary at this time. As the season advances, I hope to have the pleasure of again referring to the subject, trusting that some persons may be led to commence the cultivation of this useful and ornamental plant, and be rewarded with success. I would, however, add, that cuttings struck in the autumn and kept gently moving, will produce very pretty plants the following June and July.

JOHN DOBSON.

*Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth.*

## Floral Exhibitions.

THE present age is one of progress, and as the various arts are progressing, we must, ere long, make some rapid strides with regard to our floral exhibitions. The want of floral exhibitions is, however, easily overcome. The following hints, from the pen of a very influential gentleman amateur, are worthy of attention.

To make horticultural exhibitions useful we must make them popular, and to make them popular they must be cheap. I have of late paid a great deal of attention to the subject, and have made out a very rough sort of schedule, which, if you choose, I will give in a future number, and in the meantime will content myself with making a few observations. A. is a small amateur, and has a very nice lot of Roses, but then he cannot afford to pay two guineas entrance, and

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ten, twelve, or, as it is in one society, twenty shillings per year. Perhaps A., therefore, gives up the cultivation of the Rose, in which he excelled. B. is another amateur; he has Dahlias, but he cannot show, because he cannot pay the entrance; and, Sir, it is a fact, that when these large entrances and the tolerably large subscriptions are paid, the prizes, except for noblemen and rich amateurs, who cultivate stove and greenhouse plants, are so small that the amount is actually not sufficient to stimulate a man, although the entrance money was not so large. Not that I would for a moment advocate the showing of flowers for profit. The real amateur must have a far nobler aim than that. Many of your readers will perhaps, say that this is exaggerated, but, my dear Sir, I speak from the book, for while stove and greenhouse plants receive a prize of from five to seven pounds, Pelargoniums, and six fine specimens too, are rewarded with five shillings. Oh, shame on the makers of such schedules! The poorer man can grow Pelargoniums, but he cannot cultivate the stove plants, and therefore the difference in prizes.

Now, Mr. Editor, there is some talk of making a people's exhibition, that is, one which will be within the reach of all, both rich and poor. Each subscriber of three shillings and sixpence is to have two tickets to each show, subscribers of seven shillings, four tickets, and subscribers of one pound a ticket to admit not more than eight persons. The latter are to have the privilege of being placed on the list of vice-presidents. But I should have told you that these tickets are to admit to, not one, but three exhibitions. The first to be held in a large room, to accommodate a thousand persons, and to comprise Tulips, greenhouse plants, &c. This would be about the end of May. The second would be held out of doors, and would consist of Roses, greenhouse plants, fruit, and vegetables, and combined with this would be a sort of fete, with music and other entertainments. The third exhibition to consist of Dahlias, and to be held the last week in August. Will it pay? is a question which passes from reader to reader. I reply,

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yes. Admit the public, who are astonishingly fond of flowers, at a cheap rate, and it will pay; make shows popular, and they will pay; give prizes for the poor as well as the rich, and they will help you, and it will pay; and finally, with GOOD MANAGEMENT, it will pay.

I shall, Mr. Editor, give a schedule according to my mind for this people's show. I have no interest in the proposed show, but when they come for my subscription, I shall be a

VICE-PRESIDENT.

## The National Rose Show,

ST. JAMES'S HALL.

THIS great exhibition came off on Thursday, the 1st of July, and a magnificent display of the Queen of Flowers was the result. The weather had been considerably cooler for a few days previous, and was greatly in favour of the flowers, which came in in fine condition, fresh and beautiful, which lasted the day out. The large room in St. James's Hall was completely filled, and a more imposing sight it would be impossible to imagine. The air was charged with the fragrance of this large collection of the Queen of Beauties. Thirty-six silver tankards and cups, to be awarded to the successful exhibiters, were arranged in front of the orchestra, and added much to the brilliant tints of colour in the decorations of the room. The fine band of the Coldstream Guards was in attendance, and enlivened the company, during the day, with the most beautiful strains of all the select music, under that respected veteran and talented leader, Mr. Godfrey, so well known to all who attend the floral exhibitions. The greatest praise is due to all parties concerned in the carrying out of this exhibition, as well as to the exhibiters, but more especially to the Rev. Mr. Hole, for his energy and tact. The skilful manner in which

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he personally superintended the whole, deserves the thanks of the flower-loving community, and we were pleased to observe the enthusiasm with which he was received by the ladies and exhibiters present when he distributed the prizes. The splendid hall was thronged with a highly respectable company, and it must have been very gratifying to Mr. Hole and the committee, to see their exertions crowned with such complete success. The large quantity of flowers brought together, the greater part of which were fine, made it no easy duty the judges had to perform, especially as the time was rather limited. The following are the awards, and a select list of the best in each class.

FIRST CLASS.—GROWERS FOR SALE.

Best Collection, Number unlimited, Three Trusses of each Variety.—1. Messrs. Paul & Son. 2. Mr. Cranston.

Best Collection, One Truss.—1. Mr. Francis, Hertford. 2. Mr. Cant.

Forty-eight Distinct Varieties, Single Trusses.—1. Messrs. Paul & Son. 2. Mr. Turner, Slough.

Twenty-four Varieties, Single Trusses.—1. Mr. Cranston, Hereford. 2. Mr. Cant.

Best Collection of Moss Roses.—1. Messrs. Paul & Son. 2. Mr. Hallamby.

Best Collection of Tea and Noisette Roses.—1. Mr. Francis. 2. Messrs. Paul & Son.

Best Collection of Gallica Roses.—1. Mr. Cant, Colchester. 2. Messrs. Paul & Son.

SECOND CLASS.—AMATEURS REGULARLY EMPLOYING A GARDENER.

Best Collection.—1. C. Puller, Esq., Youngsbury, Herts. 2. Rev. S. Reynolds Hole, Caunton Manor, Notts. 3. R. Fellowes, Esq., Shottisham Park, Norfolk.

Best Twenty-four.—1. Captain Maunsell, Thorpe Manor. 2. Mr. Moffat, Dunmow, Essex. 3. R. Fellowes, Esq.

Best Twelve.—1. C. Puller, Esq. 2. C. M. Worthington, Esq., Caversham Priory, Reading. 3. Rev. H. Helydar, Pendomar, Yeovil.

Best Six.—1. R. Fellowes, Esq. 2. Rev. S. Reynolds Hole. 3. T. Blake, Esq., Welling.

THIRD CLASS.—AMATEURS NOT REGULARLY EMPLOYING A GARDENER.

Best Twenty-four.—1. Mr. Thomas Mallet, Nottingham.—2. Rev. C. Maunsell, Thorpe Manor, Northampton. 3. Mr. Thomas Walker, 14, Merton-street, Oxford.

Best Twelve.—1. A. Fryer, Esq., Chatteris, Cambridgeshire. 2. Mr. Stedman, Hatsell, Woking, Surrey. 3. Rev. C. O. Maunsell.

Best Six.—1. Mr. Hewitt, Hampton Wick. 2. A. Fryer, Esq. J. Sladden, Esq., Ash, Kent.

Best Group of Roses.—Mr. Turner, Slough.

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The censors were Mr. H. Curtis, Mr. Perry, Mr. Busby, Mr. C. Wood, Mr. Fox, and Mr. Parsons; and the Rev. S. Reynolds Hole, of Caunton Manor, Newark, Nottinghamshire, was honorary secretary.

The following are a few of the extra fine blooms of Roses, selected from each class. *Hybrid Perpetuals.*—Madame Vidot, William Griffiths (these were, perhaps, the two finest shaped flowers in the exhibition), Souvenir de la Reine d'Angleterre, Prince Leon, Noemi, Comte de Nanteuil, Madame Andry, Queen Victoria, Baron Heckeren, Madame H. Jaquin, Victor Trouillard, Duchess d'Orleans, Graziella, Madame Knorr, Paul Ricaut, Mathurin Regnier, General Pelissier, Joan of Arc, Lady Stuart, Jules Margottin, Auguste Mie, Caroline de Sansal, Triomphe de l'Exposition, Lord Raglan, General Jacqueminot, Geant des Batailles, Cardinal Patrizzi, Prince de la Moskowa, Empereur Napoleon (the last three are very dark), Louise Peronny, Arthur de Sansal, La Fontaine (this last was by far the largest Rose in the exhibition). *Gallica.*—Transon Goubalt, Triomphe de Jansens, William Tell, Boule de Nanteuil, Duchess of Kent, Bizarre Marbree, Ohl, Letitia, Œillet Flamande. *Tea-scented.*—Gloire de Dijon, Souvenir d'un Ami, Devoniensis, Narcisse, Madame Willermoz. *Noisette.*—Cloth of Gold, Solfaterre, Acidalie, Ophrie. *White.*—Madame Zoutman (the finest of all white Roses), Princess Clementine, Blanchefleur, Bath White. *Moss.*—Lady Stuart. The Moss Roses were not good, otherwise, the growers consider that, as a whole, Roses were never seen so fine.

M. BUSBY, F.H.S.

## My Greenhouse.

BLAZING with Balsams, of eighteen very distinct varieties, a few Scarlet Geraniums, to light up the colours, and half-a-dozen large two-year old plants of Calceolaria rugosa, to furnish yellow, which

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the Balsams will not, and some plants of Veronica Andersonii, which, with their graceful purple and white plumes, like so many feathers in miniature, and their dark green glossy foliage, help to fill up the picture well. Of course, syringing is out of the question, but I find the greatest advantage in watering all over the floor, and shutting close at night. The damp which rises is refreshing, and does not damage the flowers. Another advantage arises from letting down the shade, during the mid-day sun, and keeping every door and window open, as well as the top-lights, all day, unless it rains, when the top-lights are closed. Seedling Geraniums, some just up, and others pricked out, round the edges of four-inch pots, are progressing near the light; and the front stage, or table, is covered with Fuchsias, of which the Souvenir de Chiswick, Venus de Medici, Duchess of Lancaster, England's Glory, Napoleon, and Miss Catherine Hayes are the best six in full flower. Fuchsias only come out in their true character when shaded. Venus de Medici, a most beautiful subject, with flesh-coloured sepals, becomes an ugly foxy red, when grown in the open air and sun, and all others are the worse for exposure. The old white corolla Fuchsias are very lanky growers, and are completely eclipsed by the new one, the Princess of Prussia, which is much larger, and very striking. All the greenhouse plants that have been turned out for the summer are under a north wall, and wide enough apart to prevent even touching, to say nothing of growing into each other. The Camellias are well set for bloom, and the Azaleas are progressing towards setting. The Geraniums are seeding pretty well, and will be all cut back in less than a week from this time, and upon the manner in which this is done depends our plants for next season. We must consider that they will break out all over the stems, and in cutting back, we must make, or rather leave a handsome foundation for the new branches. When they are cut back, we must keep them well watered, till they begin to grow, and then we may turn them out of their pots, shake out the roots,



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take off all the matted fibres, and repot them in smaller pots. They may then be shut up in a cold frame, and shaded, a day or two; after which, they may have air freely, but not all the sun. Many persons, who do not want their greenhouses filling with Balsams and flowering plants, in summer, return the Geraniums to the greenhouse, but the cold frame will do just as well for all ordinary purposes. Those who want to exhibit, and do not care how weakly their plants grow, because every branch is to have a stick, will keep them close and warm, and let them draw any how. As the new shoots appear, rub off all those that grow inwards, because the centre of the plant ought not to be crowded; and when the new branches are two or three inches long, pinch out the tops, to make the plants more bushy; and always, as they grow, if one branch be more vigorous than the others, and wants to take the lead, check that one, to bring it back to a reasonable form, for when a branch takes the lead, it will be sure to keep it, to the detriment of the rest of the plant. The Thunbergia is a nice climbing plant, and is a pretty addition to the Flora of the greenhouse, and if I were not crowded with Balsams, it would be among mine. I turn them into the open border, and support them as I should Sweet Peas; but there is not a prettier greenhouse plant now in bloom. The flowers vary from white to straw, bright yellow, and orange, with and without black centres, and continue growing and blooming for a long season. The Tree Violet is a pretty addition to the greenhouse, but is, properly speaking, at home in the cold frame. Nevertheless, its fragrance, and the little room it takes up, ensure it a place in any collection of mixed greenhouse plants. I have it growing on one of the shelves, which is mostly filled with young plants of the greenhouse family, hardly strong enough to be trusted out of doors. These want shifting, as they fill their small pots with roots. Of the plants now out of doors and most in want of a shift, I may mention Acacias, Chorozemas, Cytisus, Daphnes, Deutzias, Ericas, Eriostemons, and Epacris;

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but we should never be in too great a hurry to shift a plant, for unless the roots are beginning to mat all round the ball of earth, they may go on a bit longer. The cuttings taken from the Geraniums will be properly trimmed, and put about three inches apart, under a north wall, and not be allowed to get dry, and about the end of September, potted up, and put on shelves, in the greenhouse. I shall not lose many, not half so many as those who strike their cuttings under hand-glasses.

## The Manetti.

I HAVE read the "passage of arms," between Mr. Appleby and Mr. Davis, in your work. Without attempting to decide the dispute, I may, however, give the following testimony.

Last fall, and this spring, I bought of Mr. Gill, nurseryman, of Blandford, on Manetti stocks (strong stocks), four Laffays, one Victoria (Paul's), two Bonapartes, and one Duchess of Norfolk. The whole of their wood was strong. Bonaparte's was the strongest, Victoria next, Laffay next, the Duchess the least so, but still much stronger than I have been able to grow it on the Dog Rose. They have all bloomed admirably, and some of them are forward for another series. Victoria is a most beautiful Rose. I never could get a bloom in three years, on the Dog stock. I never have had such good Laffays before. I think also the Duchess is better on the Manetti. Bonaparte, on two standards of the Dog Rose, has died: he has bloomed well on the Manetti. I am so pleased with what I have seen here, and also at Mr. Gill's nursery, that I have ordered of his Manetti stocks six each of the following Roses:—Laffay, Victoria, Geant, Comte de Nanteuil, Jules Margottin, and Prince Leon. These are all first-class Roses; and, as I see they do well on the Manetti, I would rather multiply known good ones, that I see do well, than try new ones at a venture. Madame Schmidt

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(root-spliced), bought of Rivers, has also bloomed three or four large and good Roses, on the Manetti. I think she will be a favourite. Having bought the thirty-six as above, I then asked Mr. Gill if he could show me a Rose on the Manetti, that had done well more than one season. He said, I can; and he showed me the Duchess of Norfolk, which had been in the same place three years. Her wood was strong, the main leader was about the size of the little finger at the joint nearest the nail. She had also other good wood, and I could see the remains of very copious and fine flowering. He said, She has bloomed transcendently, or words to that effect.

I then told him that I was puzzled to discover the causes of the discrepant testimony. I said the Manetti, on my light and stronger ground, both do well. *He* said (and mark this), "All mine you see are budded upon strong established stocks, not on the leader, but on the 'root stock,' close to the ground; and it is better still to scrape away the earth, and bud upon what has been covered; and when the Manetti is finally removed, after the bud has well started, then cover the whole of the Manetti stock and base of the budded Rose with earth, as it prevents 'sports.'"

The Manetti has the following good attributes. The buds hardly ever fail. You can't place her too deep to hurt her, as she will root all up her stem, especially if you "nick" the rind with a knife. She does well in all soils, and, from her abundant roots, is more independent of water than the Brier, which is impatient of root-scorching. I cover the roots of Roses on the Brier with clay and black stable manure, and water them copiously, in sultry weather.

This, then, is all I can say. May not the failures of Roses proceed from bad or badly-established stocks? May not the Manetti suit one Rose and the Brier another? I am not going to give up the latter; nor am I, without a further trial, going to be prejudiced against the former, of which I have had, without a single failure, such a successful trial. Let us "fight for truth, and not for victory." Soils, situations, the

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establishment of the stocks, the place of "budding," and many other overlooked circumstances, will yet prove Mr. Appleby and Mr. Davis to be both of them right and both of them wrong!

I will conclude with thanking Mr. Paul and Mr. Wood for the introduction of those superb Roses, Victoria and the Duchess of Norfolk. Mr. Canstoun's catalogue is the only one that does the latter justice. "Free, carmine rose, large and full, fine handsome foliage and vigorous habit; a first-rate Rose."

W. F. RADCLYFFE,
RECTOR OF RUSHTON.

*Blandford, Dorset.*

## Opinions on Flowers, &c.

SEEDLING PINKS.—S. HARTLEY, *Leeds.*—The tin case, containing six blooms of finely laced seedling Pinks, arrived safe. My advice is, pipe them, and give them all a fair trial next season. Second or third blooms, from seedlings growing so close together, are not fair samples to pass opinion upon, although I have not the least doubt that two sorts out of the six will prove fine. No. 1 possesses every good property, with the exception of being short of petals. Those it does contain are excellent—fine, large, smooth, well laced with solid dark brown, without serrature, or white fringe, a property I admire. No. 6 is also very promising. Get it with a few more petals, and it is sure to do. The other four sorts try again, and let us see some of the first blooms. By the by, while speaking of the above, be it understood, I am no advocate for white fringed Pinks. Give me a good broad solid edge, without the least serrature or white round it. I am not one of those timid fellows, who seem to be frightened about solid-coloured plated-edged Pinks getting too like Picotees. So long as I can tell the difference between a duck and a swan, I shall be able to distinguish the Pink from the Picotee.—JOHN HEPWORTH.

SEEDLING FUCHSIAS.—S. N., *Islington.*—Neither of your seedlings are worth trying another season. They want size and colour.—JOHN DOBSON.

BALSAMS.—F.—Your Balsams are very large and varied in colour, and, we should think, as good as it is possible to get flowers in this class.—JOHN DOBSON.



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# Notes and Queries.

IN the last number of the *Midland Florist*, page 213, respecting seed from a blue Lupin, gathered last year, bringing flowers of a light pink colour, you put the following queries:—Is the young beginner certain of the fact? I am quite certain of it. Was the blue Lupin an annual? Yes. Were there any of the old pink Lupins in the neighbourhood? None, that I know of, but I had some yellow ones near them. Was there any chance of the seed having been changed? None. Is there anything peculiar in the soil? About three inches of loam, and several feet of hard red marl.—A YOUNG BEGINNER.

CHRYSANTHEMUMS.—From the remarks you made, in reply to my former question, respecting the cultivation of the Chrysanthemum, I take this opportunity of informing you how I have succeeded with them. I find there is a great advantage gained in growing the plants as short-jointed as possible, in order that they may, after the first stop, throw out laterals at the bottom, for if pegged down when they are high up, they will break off, if the wood is at all ripe, and if very young and succulent, they form a hook. Those I stopped early and got short-jointed, have made by far the best shaped plants. I have lost some of my finest laterals, by letting them grow too much before pegging. My plants are very fine, though I shall not be able to grow them so well as I might, because I have not sufficient room, neither have I pots larger than twenty-fours, the size they are now in, which they quite fill with roots. My garden is not more than eighteen yards square, and they have overgrown my room entirely. The reason is, I believe, my trying to grow them as advised in Mr. Broome's excellent work. My compost is one-half turfy loam, one-quarter leaf mould, one-eighth decomposed manure, from an old Mushroom bed, and one-eighth sand. I well water them every night, and sometimes in the morning. I plunge them into a tub of liquid manure, and water overhead, about three times a week. The plants that I put in on Christmas day, are now as fine and as bushy as my old plants, that I turned out into my kitchen garden, without any cutting out. I shall not venture to stop them any more. I have already done so three times; the last time about three weeks since. I wish they were more extensively grown in Leamington, they are so very easy to cultivate, and so inexpensive. I have nearly sixty varieties, and should be happy to exchange lists with any of your readers, and to give any one a variety, who has not got any, and is willing to grow them. A request to that effect, addressed as under, I shall be pleased to attend to, if permitted, as soon as the plants are fit to send out. I hope to be able to send you word how my bloom turns

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out.—A. F. A., 19, *Bath-street, Leamington.*——We are exceedingly obliged to A. F. A. for the interesting and practical information so kindly furnished. It will be read with much pleasure by Chrysanthemum growers, and we must beg to thank him for the liberal offer to supply young beginners with cuttings. I have no doubt that before the season of blooming is over, he will have many who will take advantage of his liberality. This is a step in the right direction, to encourage floriculture, and also to encourage trade, as the acceptors will be sure to purchase others, when they find what an interesting and beautiful plant it is to grow. Respecting the snapping of the laterals at the shoulders, when pegged down, it might have been prevented by placing, a few joints from the shoulder, crutches, made from a piece of lath, with a notch cut out at top, and firmly fixed under the branch, to take the weight off the joint, at the parent stem, and these crutches may be taken away again in a week. As the pots are so small, the plants will require liquid manure every day (after watering), and it should also be sprinkled over the foliage at least twice a day. Had they been my plants, I would have ventured another stop, especially with the early ones, say Argentine, Madame Rousselon, Berrit, Drin Drin, Duraflet, Autumna, Model, Sacramenta, Brilliant, &c. There is still more than three months, and it is a great pity so successful and good a grower should be cramped for room. Thanking the gentleman again for his memorandum, I shall wait for the result of his success in blooming, when I have no doubt we shall have a most pleasing account from his pen.—S. Broome, F.H.S.

Chrysanthemums.—I have been so much pleased with what Mr. Broome has written about the Chrysanthemum, in the *Midland Florist*, that I ordered twenty plants from a nurseryman. They arrived this morning, but are much smaller than I anticipated. They are about six inches high, and have eight joints. Am I to stop them? Shall I put them in a shady place? Shall I manure water them? They are now in six-inch pots, for I have shifted them. I thought, from what I saw of some Chrysanthemums, at Wolverton, that there ought to be ten or twelve shoots in a pot, and it has quite disheartened me. Mine are all good sorts, as I have picked them from Mr. Broome's list. They are Pompones, and large flowering varieties.—A Beginner.——Your plants are as large as they usually are from the nursery. The only difficulty you have is purchasing so late; however, they will all bloom this year, but not so well as you might wish. Don't stop the large ones (if you wish for very large flowers), and water sparingly every other day, with cow or horse manure water, till the plant makes a good many side shoots. Then give it stronger and oftener. Respecting the Pompones, stop as soon as you can, but be careful not to take more off than you possibly can avoid—merely the very heart, and no more. They will bear a good share of liquid manure, say half-a-pint per day, through

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August, and afterwards a pint, tolerably strong, but as clear as you can get it. Try if you can get a few plants from them, in the autumn, and by this time next year, with judicious management, you will have three hundred breaks, and plants on one stem three feet across. Water twice a day, and sprinkle the foliage often, you will get some good blooms, late as they are, if well attended to. As they are late, don't put them in the shade. They are not like plants in pots, full of roots—give them sun. Never think of growing them in any other way than on one stem, except as a makeshift, not as you state, ten or twelve in a pot. Let your Wolverton friend grow as many as he pleases in one pot, you stick to one, and challenge him next year, single-handed, against his double.—S. BROOME, F.H.S.

In our report of the National Tulip Exhibition, the fourth prize in class C. is awarded to Mr. Bollerton—it should have been Mr. B. Morton, and the flowers were Heroine, Sir C. Napier, and Cotterill's Competitor. By some mistake, the name of Mr. Peacock was attached to the second best three feathered flowers. They belonged to Mr. Pickerill, who showed, at the Exchange Rooms, Nottingham, on the 2nd of June, a most beautiful feathered byblœmen, named Mrs. Pickerill. It was pronounced by several growers to be the best they had seen this season.

## Calendar of Operations.

AURICULAS.—Should any repotting remain undone, remember every day now is a neglect of time, and against the future health and vigour of the plants. Those which were potted last month have the best chance, if looked after. Keep them clear of weeds, and allow them to have gentle rains, or water a little regularly with soft water, but be aware of thunder rain, and hailstorms, or your fine foliage will be spoiled for the season, and the plants will be stunted.—JOHN HEPWORTH, *Lea Bridge-road, Leyton.*

AZALEAS.—Much the same routine as recommended for last month is to be pursued. Pot off early-struck cuttings, according to their habits, in small or large sixty-sized pots, and encourage free growth, by keeping up a nice humid atmosphere.—EDWARD CLEETON, *gardener to E. Holland, Esq., M.P., Dumbleton.*

CARNATIONS AND PICOTEES.—The bloom will soon attain maturity, and as soon as Carnations can be seen in colour, layering should be commenced without delay, as this operation should not be deferred later than the 20th of this month, but the earlier the better. Loosen the soil, and water it well. Take a small portion of soil out, and fill up with a light sandy com-

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post. Water, after layering, with a fine rose watering can, so that the water may fall as if it were mizzly rain, and take care that they are never droughted, and in a few weeks they will have rooted. Should there be any pods of seed, put a piece of glass, about four-and-a-half inches square, over them, which may easily be done by sawing a nick in a piece of deal, and inserting the glass. Let the glass be near the pod, to prevent the rain from falling on it, and rotting it.—JOHN SLATER, *Cheetham Hill, Manchester.*

CHRYSANTHEMUMS.—Tie up all border varieties firmly, with good strong stakes, at least eighteen inches to two feet higher than the plants are at present. They make rapid growth during September and October, and will be sure to be then considerably higher than the top of the stakes. Supply bountifully with water, in August, or they are apt to get the mildew. Look sharply after earwigs, or they will eat the centre out. A sprinkling of bitter aloes, diluted in water, just at dusk, will be a great preventive, as they usually feed at dark. Look well to specimen plants, and see that they do not throw up suckers, and take off all laterals. Leave three branches when the crown divides, and take off the side shoots from them, till the flower bud shows, which will be the beginning of September. Be particular in making the three top shoots firm to a stake, or they will snap at the joint, when there is much wind, and the foliage is loaded with wet. Attend to the watering and mulching, as before directed, if the plants are in the borders. Keep pegging down your Pompones in front, till the middle of August. It will save tying, and also give more blooming shoots, and flower them shorter likewise. Now is a good time to put out a few in beds, by themselves, if you can spare the room. They will make a grand display, in autumn, if pegged down, like Verbenas. They are easily covered, if frost comes in early, when kept short.—S. BROOME, F.H.S., *Temple Gardens.*

CINERARIAS.—To produce strong plants, every encouragement must be given to their growth. They should have abundance of air, a cool and shady place, and be carefully supplied with water. The blackfly will be found a great enemy to the progress of the plant, while in a young state, therefore it must be carefully looked after, or the plant will dwindle away to nothing. A good remedy is to dip the plants in the solution recommended in a previous number. Young stock may be put in, and increased as required. Seedlings that are strong enough may be pricked out into pans, or wide-mouthed pots; those which are forwarder may be potted singly into small pots, and treated in the same manner as those intended for specimens.—JOHN DOBSON, *Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth.*

DAHLIAS, at this season, require more than ordinary care, and no labour must be spared to encourage the growth, if we are to have fine flowers. In the first place, secure the branches, and remove all those that prevent a free circulation of light

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and air through every part of the plant. Some persons object to the use of the knife, but it will be found that by removing a few large branches from a plant, the size of the flowers is increased. Give good supplies of manure water. Disbud where they are produced by twos or threes, leaving only one bud on a stem, and that the one which has the appearance of making the best flower. Water must be given plentifully, if the weather continue dry. Water in the evening, and frequently over the foliage. Look after the earwigs. I find no traps so successful as small pots, with a little moss in them, placed on the top of the stakes. These should be examined twice a-week, at least, or every morning where the sort appears to be a favourite. If these pests are not kept down, all your labours will be in vain.—RICHARD EDWARDS, *Nuthall.*

EPACRISES.—Towards the middle of the month, place all plants that have completed their growth, in the full sun, so as to get the wood thoroughly ripened. Protect the roots as directed last month.—EDWARD CLEETON, *gardener to E. Holland, Esq., M.P., Dumbleton.*

FORCING DEPARTMENT.—*Early Vinery.*—Presuming the fruit has been gathered, the top lights may be taken off, the intention being to give the Vines the benefit of a full exposure to the atmosphere, which will thoroughly renovate and mature the wood for bearing, next year.——*Late Vinery.*—Attend to the directions of last month, especially as regards the stopping and thinning of laterals in due time, not allowing them to get ahead, and then suddenly lopping off a large quantity of overgrowth. Be assured the Vines will not bear such sudden and unnatural treatment with impunity. Look to the temperature. The nights have been cold lately, and, although it is unusual to want fires in July, I would not allow the thermometer to fall below sixty degrees at night.——*Peach House.*—If the fruit has been gathered, with the exception of the Teton de Venus (a fine large late Peach, which should be in every Peach-house, as it keeps up the succession for a fortnight or three weeks), hasten the maturing of the wood, by all means at hand, not by a sudden lowering of the temperature. Give plenty of air, in fine weather, and gradually diminish the moisture. The object in view being, to give the trees as long a rest as possible, and exposure to the weather.—M. BUSBY, F.H.S.

FUCHSIAS.—The principal thing to bear in mind will be, that the plants be liberally supplied with water, for if they are once allowed to get dry, an alteration in their appearance will soon be perceived. As an autumn-flowering plant, the Fuchsia is very valuable, and its beauty may be very much prolonged by careful shading and watering. Plants to bloom this year, should all be in their blooming pots. Seed may be gathered, and sown in light soil, as soon as ripe. The produce will flower early next season.—JOHN DOBSON, *Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth.*

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HEATHERY.—Those plants that are set out-of-doors, should have some kind of protection, to keep them from sudden storms of rain and hail, otherwise much injury may be the consequence. Persevere in keeping the plants clear of mildew. The season is now arrived when all flues, boilers, and other heating apparatus should be put in order, and all repairs completed.—E. CLEETON, *gardener to E. Holland, Esq., M.P., Dumbleton.*

PANSIES.—Increase stock as required, and if the weather is dry, see that the plants and cuttings receive a good supply of water. Seed may be sown this month, in pans, and placed in a shady situation. Be watchful for seed, as it distributes itself over the ground as soon as it is ripe, therefore it is best to gather it before the seed vessels burst.—JOHN DOBSON, *Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth.*

PELARGONIUMS.—Proceed with cutting down any plants that may have been flowering late, as all the plants should be cut down by the second week in the month. If my directions in last month's calendar, have been carried out, the plants may be shook out at once and disrooted. Take off the straggling roots, or any parts that may be diseased, using a very sharp knife. Repot them into some good soil, after having cleared them of the old, giving them two inches of drainage. If the plants have been growing in twenty-fours, reduce the roots so that they may go into thirty-twos, and so on. Pot them moderately firm, and place them in a house, or dry frame, and keep them close, till they have recovered, when they may have abundance of air. Water them over-head, once or twice, after repotting, but never allow heavy rain to have access to the place they are in. At this stage of their growth, be careful to ascertain that the plants are dry, before watering. More plants die, at this season, from inattention in this respect than from any other cause. Watch for greenfly; it will attack the young growth, if not checked. Cuttings may be put in, to strike, and those that are rooted should be potted off into small sixties, and placed in a close house, for a few days. Pinch out the tops of those that are weak, or getting long. Cleanliness in the house must not be overlooked. Growers intending to add sorts to their collections, will find it advantageous to purchase plants at this season. The following varieties have been conspicuous at the exhibitions round London, during the past season, and I, therefore, feel no hesitation in recommending them to those who may not yet possess them. Admirable, Carlos, Conqueror, Eclipse, Emperor, Fair Ellen, Fairest of the Fair, Flora, Gem of the West, King of Scarlets, Laura, Meteora, Miss Foster, Mr. White, Pallas, Phaeton, Prince of Wales, Rose Celestial, Rosy Gem, Symmetry, Una, Vestal, Viola, Wonderful. Although some of the foregoing may not be all we could wish, in point of quality or shape, yet they are all distinct, and make good specimen plants. Among spotted kinds, the best are Arab, Alexander, Charmer, Comte de Morny, Conspicuum, Guillaume

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Severeyns, Madame Lemichez, Mazeppa, Mr. Beck, Mr. Hoyle, Napoleon III., Pescatore, Sanspareil, Starlight. These are all very distinct and good.—JOHN DOBSON, *Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth.*

POLYANTHUSES.—About the middle of this month is the best time for taking up and repotting Polyanthuses. After which, the treatment ought to be something similar to that of the Auricula, with the exception, that they require rather more water, and a more damp or confined situation, guarding against thunder and hailstorms.—JOHN HEPWORTH, *Leyton.*

POMPONE CHRYSANTHEMUMS have now reached the time for the last stop. Having hitherto stopped at one length, during their growth, a different course is now to be followed. The grower must be somewhat guided by the shape, also the vacant places required to be filled up in the specimen, and stop accordingly. The strongest shoots should be stopped as near the former length as possible, the weaker shoots not so close by two or three eyes. With such precaution, a more equal head of bloom will be obtained. Cooling liquid manures should now be freely given, watering first with plain water, not forgetting the syringe, or the watering-pot rose, for, as I have previously stated, much depends upon these frequent showers, in attaining good foliage. The heat being great in my locality, I find it necessary to shade; others may have a more favourable situation, but, if not, shade, allowing the plants to have the sun till ten a.m. I mention this as the result of my own experience; they thrive best by allowing them to have the morning and evening sun, and shading at mid-day. Those who have spare plants, and an inclination to try experiments, may do so, not, however, upon a small plant, but upon a specimen, in an eight-inch pot, and not less than eight feet in circumference, and leave the plant more to itself, and give the result, which, if successful, would save much trouble now taken. Those who have but few plants, I would recommend not to rely upon such chance treatment, but to attend to the instructions I have given to secure the shape of the plants, and regularity of the shoots, and to retain the foliage they now have, and they will not be disappointed.—JAMES HOLLAND, *gardener to R. W. Peake, Esq., Spring Grove, Hounslow.*

ROSES.—All the attention out-door Roses require, this month, is thinning out the weak shoots, cutting off decayed bloom, watering, if the weather keeps dry, and well syringing through the heads, to keep down greenfly, &c. On the first appearance of mildew, dust with sulphur. Finish budding as early as possible. Those done early will want untying.——*In pots.*—Attend to the directions for the last month. Never let them suffer for want of water, and do not keep them crowded. Let there be a free circulation of air through them, and, whether young or established plants, endeavour to secure a clean and healthy growth.—HENRY DAVIES, *Great Stanmore.*

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# The Cineraria and its Properties.

[*From the Florists' Guide.*]

THE Cineraria is one of those flowers, and there are several, which made no advance until we published the criterion of a perfect flower. It cannot be said that any other person had ventured even an opinion of what it ought to be; so that, whether right or wrong, our dogma, as it was once called, was original, and the best proof that we were right is, that our notions have been universally adopted. In republishing the properties, for the use of raisers of seedlings, we shall be guiding the young florists, who, perhaps, hardly know where the original instructions appeared; and they will act as a reminder to those who have grown careless.

This flower was once a poor narrow-petalled star. It was considered almost a species of madness to venture an assertion that it should be round, to be perfect; but we laid that down as a leading feature, which some averred it was impossible to approach, much less attain. Yet what did it require? Only that the number of petals should be increased, that the petals should widen, that the ends should be obtuse, and the notch, which was general, should be got rid of. This would have made a round flower; and we have already seen the indentations between the petals so slight as to scarcely break the circle. There is a good deal depending on the colour, in Cinerarias. The texture of the



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petal is naturally rough and stripy, or guttery, and the colours are, therefore, dull; that is to say, the blue or the crimson, that would be rich on a glossy or velvety surface, is dull on a surface like rough paper. To bring this point more familiar, the colour of the common blotting paper, instead of the dulness which belongs to it, would, if transferred to shining glossy note paper, really, or at least comparatively, look rich and lively. The consequence of this peculiarity about the texture of the petals is, that unless the colour be very dense and bright in itself, there is a good deal to be deducted from the value, on that score. The most brilliant self-colour is but a dull affair, compared to the tipped sorts. This is the real cause of so many dull-looking varieties, and led us to the consideration of improvements. To make a truly fine Cineraria, we must have a white ground; for, strange as it may seem, it will be recognized at once, upon consideration that, although a rough and spongy surface is unfavourable to colours, it is the reverse with white,—no white is more pure than that of some of the Cinerarias, and the addition of an edge is all we desire. The purity of the white renders any colour a good contrast, but the most striking are crimsons and blues, and in all their various shades of denseness and paleness, they are desirable. The edging, however, should be even; it should just form an even band of colour, all round alike, and leave a well-defined circle of white, surrounding a disk of some determinate colour. Too many disks are large in proportion to the flower, and being neither black nor yellow, look, when developed, a sort of dirty grey. There is a want of distinctness and of contrast in such, which many ordinary growers lose sight of.

A flower, to be striking, then, should be white on the ground, distinctly banded with a dense colour or shade of some kind—the greater the contrast the better; and it should have a small black, or dark-coloured, or bright yellow disk. Of the many Cinerarias we have seen—we may say many thousands—but few strike us as first-rate things. The disks of many are too large,

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the flowers of many too small, the colour too dull, the petals too rough; and a vast majority of those which ordinary certificate makers think fine, are by no means deserving of notice. The petals should be smooth, and of a velvety or glossy texture. There should be no ribs nor puckers. The blooms should naturally lie as flat as a shilling; and if they deviate at all, it must be by cupping, rather than reflexing. But there are other points, of no small consequence in the construction of a Cineraria. The foliage should spread, and show an even surface of green, and above this, the flowers should form an even surface of bloom, setting edge to edge, and not, as in too many cases, making a heterogeneous bunch, one above another. All these points should strike a good judge at once—the perfect model should be in his mind, and the deficiency of anything that is before him should be apparent. The distinction of a first and second-class flower should be well understood. If a Cineraria, then, has a white ground, is circular on the edge, that is to say, above the average circular, with the ends of the petals free from notch, and with a distinct edging of colour, the flowers opening flat, and in the truss setting edge to edge, and having also a good habit, there can be no difficulty in giving it a good character; but there are hundreds that would be rich for bedding, or admirable for specimens as pot plants, and attractive in their particular way, that ought to have second-class certificates, if any.

The disk, being the most ugly part of the flower, cannot enlarge without trenching upon the richness of the bloom. When we speak of a large disk, we, of course, mean large in proportion to the size of the flower, for there is everything in proportion,—that which would be outrageous in a small flower, would be moderate in a large one. The disk should be from a fourth of the entire diameter to, at the very most, a third. Upon the whole, the greatest error that censors appear to have fallen into with respect to the Cineraria, is that of omitting to regard the colour. We know form ought to go first, but contrast is a great point always, and brilliance indispensable. Let any one look

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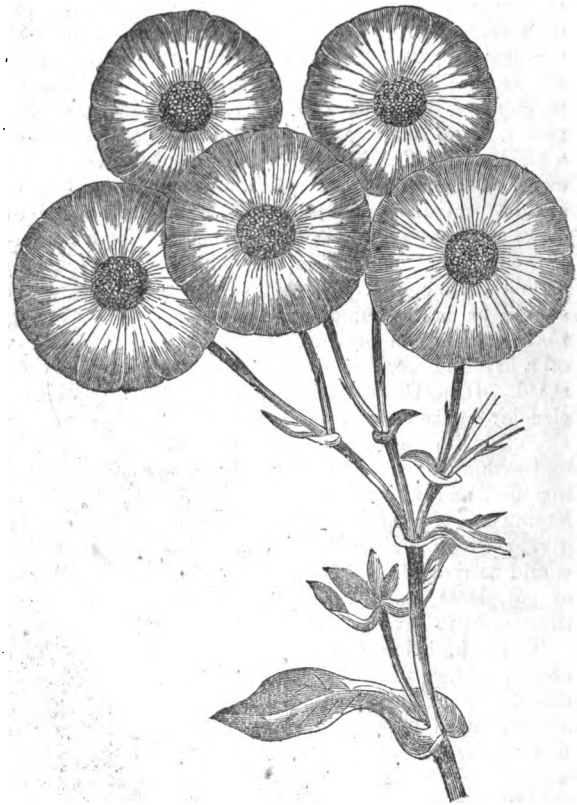
at a dozen of the very best dull reds, blues, purples, or slate colours, then turn to white and blue, white and crimson, or white and anything, and the relief will be



astounding. Even a white self, pure as it may be, is a sorry-looking affair, contrasted with those which have edges or tips.

One more point is worth urging. We allude to the flowers which, instead of having well-defined tips, that is a circle of white within a broad band, have tips that

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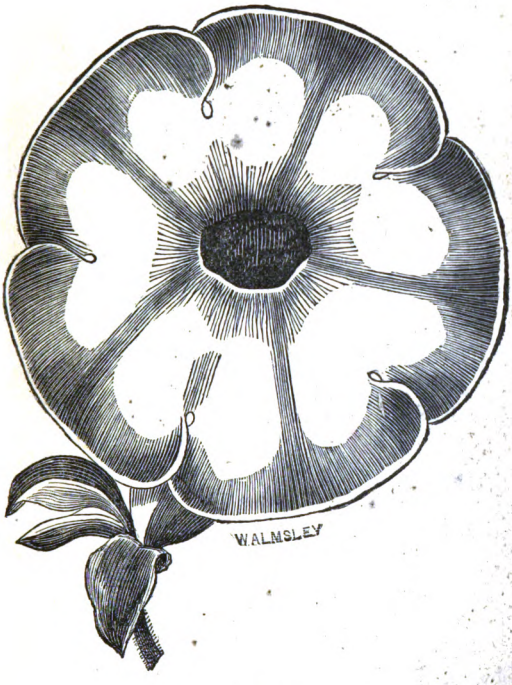


# PROPERTIES OF FLOWERS.

## THE PETUNIA.

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shade down gradually into the white, and have no defined line. This shaded or clouded family, or branch of the family, is but little better than the selfs, and unless the varieties possess extraordinary claims, on account of other features, would be rarely entitled to a place among the best. We have gone more deeply into the properties of this increasing favourite than we at first intended, because, although we published the outline of the properties of all flowers, some years ago, we generally confined our rules to the establishment of leading principles, leaving, in some flowers, considerable room for variety; our grand object being to settle the form, and leave a good deal to fancy, as to the colours, which, except in certain points of distribution, may be regarded, to a great extent, as matters of taste. We arrive, therefore, at these conclusions:—

The flowers should be round, without indentations between the petals, and without notch on the petals, the edges being smooth.

The petals should be broad, obtuse at the ends, thick, of fine texture, and sufficiently numerous to form a close circle.

The truss should be large, the flowers edge to edge, forming a rounding surface; they should also set edge to edge, so that the entire bloom should form one large head, rather higher in the middle than at the sides.

The ground of edged flowers should be pure white, the colour on the edges all alike, dense, and well defined, so as to form a complete equal ring all round the outer edge of the flower, not shading into the white, but abrupt, and the greater the contrast the better.

The colours of all, whether selfs or edged, should be brilliant. The rank in which different characters stand, in competition, is, well-defined edged varieties first, positive bright selfs second, clouded and shaded flowers last, and this last extends to even those with white grounds, if they shade off gradually to a margin of colour, instead of abruptly terminating the white and commencing the margin.

GEORGE GLENNY.



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# Cultivation of the Chrysanthemum.

BEG to submit to you the following, which, from what I understand by the teaching of the *Midland Florist*, is the way to cultivate pompone and large-flowering Chrysanthemums. I shall divide the subject into thirteen heads, taking them in the same order as though I were commencing the cultivation of the Chrysanthemum, viz., pots, drainage, compost, cuttings, planting, striking, repotting, pegging-out, stopping, watering, liquid manure, thinning the bloom, and tallies.

1. POTS.—The pots should be perfectly clean, quite sound, and the rims whole, for these reasons. Cleanliness is essential to the health of the plant, a cracked pot will often come in two, when moving the plants, and a broken rim prevents proper watering. The annexed list of sizes will be found very useful by the amateur. Those marked with an * will be found the most useful in growing the Chrysanthemum. They can be bought at two shillings the cast, or, as some call it, the long dozen.

| Midland Counties Size. | London, ℔ Cast, or long Doz. | Diamtr. inside Measur. | Midland Counties Size. | London, ℔ Cast, or long Doz. | Diamtr. inside Measur. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Thumbs ..... | 72s | 2½ | Three Quarts | 12s | 9½ |
| Quarter Pints | 60s* | 3¼ | Four Quarts... | 8s | 11 |
| Half Pints ... | 54s | 4¼ | Six Quarts ... | 6s | 12½ |
| Pints ..... | 48s* | 5 | Pecks ..... | 4s | 14 |
| Quarts ..... | 32s* | 6¼ | Half Strikes... | 2s | 15½ |
| Three Pints ... | 24s* | 7½ | Strikes ..... | 1 to the cast. | 18 |
| Two Quarts ... | 16s* | 8¼ | | | |

2. DRAINAGE.—Use plenty of small broken crocks, brick, and oyster shells, with a little charcoal, to prevent the soil from turning sour. Set the pots upon bricks, slates, or ashes, to keep out the worms, and keep the drainage free, or the foliage will fall of. Place a few of the roughest pieces of loam over the drainage, to keep the soil from running among it.

3. COMPOST.—One-half turfy loam, with plenty of fibres in it; one-fourth decomposed horse or cow

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manure, or both; one-eighth silver or drift sand; and one-fourth leaf soil. The principal thing to ensure good bloom, is soil of proper quality. This may be prepared in the winter, but must be kept out of the rain.

4. CUTTINGS.—Take off the shortest-jointed laterals, in November, or as soon after as they are ready, or take cuttings from the shortest-jointed grass. Dress your cuttings close to a joint, take off the bottom leaves, and remove the eyes, to guard against suckers. March would be the best time for young beginners, or those who have not the convenience of a frame.

5. PLANTING.—Pot into sixties two of a sort, for fear one should miss, or, if you want two, pot three. Place the cuttings round the *sides* of the pot, then you can turn them out, and see how they are progressing. *Press the mould firmly*, top-dress with silver sand, and *always leave one-eighth of the pot unfilled, to allow for water*. When the whole of the plants are put in, place the pots close together, and water with a fine rose.

6. STRIKING.—Put the pots one-fourth deep into a low bottom heat (if in November), to cause them to strike quick. As soon as they are struck, which may be ascertained by turning them out of the pots, remove them into a cold frame, but first fumigate, if there are any signs of fly. Plunge the pots rim deep into fine ashes. Gas ashes are best. *Keep them close to the glass*, and give plenty of air when there is not any frost, or the plants will grow long-jointed. Cover up in very frosty weather, especially at night.

7. REPOTTING.—Divide your plants as soon as they begin to grow, by potting them singly, into sixties, and stop them directly, by pinching out the *heart only*. Remove the drainage from the ball, and take care not to injure the fibres of the roots. Shift again, into forty-eights, as soon as the roots reach the sides of the pots, which will not be before March. Shift next into thirty-twos, then into twenty-fours, and lastly into sixteens, for blooming. Always be careful to press the newly added mould firmly in, with a piece of flat wood, putting in a little at a time, beating the sides of the

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several remarkably full and well-formed flowers, and from these I am again saving seed, and shall still try to improve. I think there is hardly anything more pleasing to a young florist than to raise seedlings of his own. With what pleasure does he watch the shooting of the plant, the appearing of the buds, and then, when they open, and reward his labours with something good or new, with what delight does he point out their various good qualities. To those who have not yet tried to grow Hollyhocks I would say, instead of buying plants, get a small packet of seed. They will thus put themselves in possession of a nice little collection, in a cheap way, and for their guidance, I will give the following short directions. The seed may be sown the first week in September (but the second week in August is better), in the open ground, and there let the plants remain until March or April, according to the state of the weather, when they may be carefully taken up and planted a foot apart, in a sort of trial bed, where they will bloom the same year, and if worth keeping, may be propagated and transplanted to where they will have more room, but if worthless, they should be at once pulled up.

The side shoots of the Hollyhock may, at this season, be cut, with either one or two eyes, and inserted in a shady border. If with one eye, they should be cut immediately below the joint, and inserted in the soil about an inch deep. They will speedily take root, and make nice plants.

In the garden of an old friend of mine, I have seen some splendid single Hollyhocks, of very fair size and stoutness of petal. They are of defined colours, and as perfectly marked as an Auricula. I have one, which was given to me by this friend, now growing in my garden. The centre, as well as the seed vessel, stamens, &c., is light primrose; around this is a ring of rich marone, and then a ring of bright yellow. This has, as may be conceived, a very pretty effect. My friend has several others, of the same class, and as he is very zealous in his efforts to improve the single Hollyhock, I

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fancy he will some day lay before the florists of Great Britain something really first-rate, in the shape of a new and yet very old class of Hollyhocks.

W. F. J.

*Breedon Rectory.*

# The Science of Floriculture.

BY G. GLENNY, AUTHOR OF "THE PROPERTIES OF FLOWERS."

NOTWITHSTANDING all we know and all we think we know, there are some subjects that all teaching, and the affectation of teaching, leave as dark as ever, and the best we can hear or read, fails to enlighten us. The phenomenon of a double Stock,—we say phenomenon, because professors may humbug us about stamens turning into petals, and sundry other nonsense, but how we are to induce these changes is a mystery. Let us state a little of our own experience. Mr. Street, a very old acquaintance of ours, who was a gentleman's gardener, but afterwards became a market gardener, in Well-street, Hackney, had, when we first knew him, some fifty years or more since, a splendid white stock, very large, and a great proportion double. He gave us a good packet, and told us not to sow it all. We sowed a third the first year, and only had two single ones among them. When we went to look at his, that year, he had not one single. The second year, we sowed half the remaining quantity, but having saved a bit from our two single ones, we gave that a trial, and had all double. In two more years, both of us were worn out, for neither of us had a single one to save seed from. Without, therefore, being able to account for it, as the scientific people had it, all our stamens were turned to petals, and the Stock was lost. But we have known particular growers of intermediate Stocks, pride themselves on the doubleness of their sort, and one season they came nearly all single. How

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was this? The grower could not tell. He had saved his seed as usual, treated his plants always alike, could not bring to mind any circumstance that differed, in the progress of the culture, from those of former years, yet, in twelve lights of plants, he could not find as many double flowers. Science here was all abroad, and as he had abundance of seed, he was inclined to get rid of it at any price, when a neighbour recommended another trial of at least a small quantity, but not to depend on it. The next season, the same seed brought the usual proportion of double flowers, and he has had no further misfortune. The natural conclusion is that there was something different in the season, or the treatment, though not enough to be noticed. Mr. Hopwood, of Twickenham, used to grow very splendid double Stocks, and he maintained to the day of his death, that if Stocks were sown at the wane of the moon, they would come single, and if sown in the increase of the moon, they would come double. This we heard him say on a particular occasion. He was sowing his Stock seed, and we requested a pinch. He called a lad, to bring a packet from his shop, but we desired a pinch from that which he was sowing. He said it was all alike, and most likely it was, because he threw that which the packet contained among the other, and filled it again from the box. And "now," inquired our friend, "when are you going to sow it?" "Next week," we answered. "Then it will all come single," said Hopwood, "for it will be the wane of the moon;" and truly enough we had hardly half-a-dozen double ones among the lot. However this circumstance may be explained, or be attempted to be accounted for, the fact was as we stated. One man attributes the doubling of Stocks to disease, another says it is occasioned by exuberance, a third says that a particular sort of bloom among the single ones will yield double; but it is not so, because we have had double stocks from the poorest looking single flowers, and although, we having begun with a good variety of colours, of which a large portion was double, have saved the seed since, and there is no less

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disposition to be double, on the contrary, we once run clean out of the Double Yellow, and but for the help of a friend, who had been more fortunate, we had lost it. Our mode of saving seed gives us much finer and fatter samples than the original seed was. We merely watch the single ones, and when there are, say eight to twelve pods, well set and swelling, we remove all the rest, and all the flowers, and allow no more growth, so that we have all the vigour of the plant in a few pods, instead of five times the quantity of smaller and poorer seed. We have some notion that this improves the seed, rather than deteriorates it, and we find that we get less rather than more single ones, of any that we save. Last year, we had a few intermediate Stocks presented to us, and not one came double. The colour, however, was nearer to bright scarlet than we ever saw before, and we tried to save a few pods, after the manner we have directed, in the hope that we could drive some into doubleness; but no, we sowed the seed at two different seasons, treated them half-a-dozen ways, but not a solitary double Stock rewarded us for the pains we took. Others have affirmed that the older the seed the more double it comes. It may be so, but we depend upon the last year's saving, and find no deficiency. It was always the opinion of old gardeners that age had a good deal to do with the double bloom of Balsams. This we can contradict, for ours has, for years, surpassed everything, and was always sent out new. Those who have seen our plants, have not found a single one among a thousand, although we never parted with a seed that was three seasons old, and very little that was not saved the previous year. With respect to the Double Wallflower, which is very like the Stock, there is neither dependance nor hope in the seed producing them. For many years we have watched the progress of the Wallflower. We have been at the sowing and planting of as many as filled half-an-acre, and rare was it to find a double one among so many. We cannot say we never saw one, because we can



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remember two or three instances, but not more. Yet in the habit and bloom of the Stock and Wallflower we observe great similarity. Nor have we advanced a single step in the right direction, that is towards producing double flowers from seed. The German Wallflower appears to be a different species, for, year after year, we have had seed from Plattz, and Haage, jun., both of Erfurt, nine-tenths of which produced what appeared to be double flowers. They are not like the English double species, because they possess the organs of generation, and however they may appear, they are but semidouble. We can save the seed, and they produce the same kind of flower, so that we really may calculate on their coming pretty true. However, they have no colours like ours, and it is fortunate that we can perpetuate the Double Wallflower by slips. The German Wallflowers are nearly all of a dull smoky purple, or brown, and although they send out a variety called bright golden yellow, they are not to be looked at the same day as our double brown, blood colour, or golden yellow. We are reluctantly, therefore, compelled to admit that science has made but little progress with the Wallflower, and that it has not yet reduced our knowledge of the Stock to anything like certainty. The Germans most decidedly have the advantage over us with the Stock, because there are houses,—Plattz and Haage, for instance,—that guarantee three out of four double, and all that we can do is to keep up the quality, by saving our own seed, when we have once got the sorts, by the means we have mentioned. The Stock, once having a disposition to throw double flowers, only has to be highly cultivated, that is, grown strong, and only a few pods be allowed to take the whole strength of the plant; but the floral world would be greatly indebted to any one who can, from his own experience, enlighten us on the subject, by telling us how to obtain double ones from a single sort that has never thrown any double.

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A REVIEW OF

# The Report of the National Tulip Meeting

OF 1858.

BY JOHN SLATER, FLORIST, CHEETHAM-HILL, NEAR MANCHESTER.

THERE is nothing tends so much to discourage the amateur florist as being deceived in purchasing his favourite flowers under the impression that what he sees in print must be true. But he little knows the various dodges practised to obtain a sale of varieties that are worse than useless. I have seen a variety which has been refused a first-class certificate, at a meeting, advertised as having received one, and many have purchased it, under the impression that they were about to add a first-rate sort to their collections. In floriculture, as in every thing else, integrity will be found to be the best advertisement, and he who truly sends out what is really first-rate, will, sooner or later, meet with the support he merits.

With these introductory remarks, I proceed to analyze the report of the National Tulip Meeting of 1858, inserted in the *Midland Florist*. Whoever will take the trouble to look over the report, will find a great number of flowers, which are in the hands of certain parties, made the most of, whilst others, possessing truly sterling merits, but belonging to different persons, are passed over. I need scarcely allude to a variety called Earl of Warwick, raised by the late Mr. Groom, of Clapham, a breeder of the first class, which was in the second stand of three varieties, exhibited by Mr. Chadwick, of Leeds, not of Dukinfield, as reported. Now I advertised this breeder, last season, and did not sell one, except to my neighbours, who noticed it at the National of 1857, in the second winning stand of six breeders. This season, it took the premier prize, at a meeting noted for the encouragement of breeders, and where they show six in each class, and give a prize, as premier, to the best bloom

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selected from the first of each class. A flower possessing properties capable of commanding a premier prize, where no expense is spared to procure the best breeders in cultivation, must have merits, even to a casual observer. As a proof of what I have advanced, I will just take the pan of J. Headly, Esq., which Mr. Allestree reports as follows:—"1st, a rose, first-rate; 2nd, ditto, very fine, rather too long, if anything; 3rd, a byblœmen, grand; 4th, ditto, ditto; 5th, bizarre, very fine; 6th, ditto, ditto." Now for my notes, and if Mr. Allestree had gone upon his knees, as I did, to examine the shape, he would have found many a property, in form and otherwise, very deficient. Regina, a rose breeder, cup long, very narrow at the base, petals broad, bottom pure, and a good colour; Endymion, byblœmen, very tun-dishy in shape, cup short, top ragged, petals rather pointed at the tips, like David; John Headly, rather narrow at the base, petals narrow, top good, bottom pure; Adonis, fine byblœmen breeder in every point. Again, in the pan of R. H. Betteridge, Esq., is Ariosto, pure, but bad shape. I wish Mr. A. would get a pair of spectacles, to enable him to see more clearly. The Lancashire growers, who know this variety, may well laugh at such a description. Further, no notice is taken of the other seedling breeders. Now there happened to be two seedling rose breeders and a byblœmen in Mr. Betteridge's pan, of which my notes are as follows:—The roses very fair in form, but the byblœmen too long in the cup, and is a creamy opener. In Mr. Hunt's pan, Eliza is noticed as being very slightly stained, which I did not perceive, but I could see impurities in others, which were passed by Queen of the South, a most splendid breeder, dark in colour. Mr. James Parkins, of Derby, exhibited in his winning stand a good seedling bizarre breeder, which deserved notice. In reporting a meeting of this nature, the fullest particulars ought to be given, as a guide to the amateur. I find the following not noticed:—Duke of Orleans, a flamed byblœmen, petals narrow and pointed, cup long, Marquis of Bristol, a bizarre, in the style

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of Charles Brown, but not so good a marker, having no branching to the beam. Henry Groom, a fine flamed bizarre. Queen Ann (Dixon), feathered rosé, not pure; and has narrow petals. Victor Emanuel (Hunt), a fourth-row feathered rose, broad at the base, good cup, pure, and well rounded petals; colour like Triomphe Royale, only a shade brighter, and resembles it much in marking. Helen (Hunt), a feathered byblœmen, colours dark, pure base, petals of medium width; a very decided acquisition. Eliza (Hunt), a feathered byblœmen, was shown in a very promising state. R. H. Betteridge, Esq., showed in his pan of six broken varieties, a seedling feathered byblœmen, cup rather long, feather dark, appears yellow at opening, and will require bleaching. This is very important to the northern growers, as few Tulips which require bleaching will suit them, particularly when it is not a sunny season.

There was a variety, named Lady Franklin, which I have marked, Query, Washington, or Lawrence's Friend? It is noticed as being like a good Sarah Ann, and I am told that Sarah Ann is one of the Chellastons, has another name, and is very common, but not having bloomed it, I have had no opportunity of making notes of it. Coup d'Hebe is stated to be like Maid of Orleans; my notes say Sable Monarch. Sarah Headly is stated to be pure, which I deny, and I hope those to whom I submitted the bloom, for an opinion, will speak out, regardless of consequences. My notes say, an improvement upon Heroine in shape, but not in purity, being greasy at the base. To Charles Napier, feathered bizarre, I have put *alias* Charles X., or Royal Sovereign, which you like. I hope to see it bloom in my collection, and I shall watch it carefully. Of Rosa Bonheur, described as a fine feathered byblœmen, my notes say, not strictly pure, petals narrow, good marker. I am of opinion that there are two Sir Joseph Paxtons out, one differing much in colour from the other. A description of the true one would be of service. There was one under that name worthy of a place in any collection,



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whilst I should hesitate to grow the other even in an outside bed. Gem of Gems (Willison), was shown in one stand as a seedling, and in the other named correctly. I do not know the reason why, but so it was. In the report, it is put down correctly. Last year, I made some observations on this variety, and I see no reason why I should alter a single word I then wrote. I must admit that in marking it is scarcely excelled, and the pencilled feathering is beautiful. The same may be said of the colour, but, after all, it wants the main requisites of a fine Tulip, form, width of petal, and stoutness. It appears as though it were made of tissue, rather than good stout drawing paper.

With extreme reluctance, I have now gone through all, and I should not have written these remarks, had not a few friends requested me to give them, but I hope they will be received in that kindly spirit which should actuate us all. I have no interests to serve, although I might have alluded to a few which I had supplied to parties, but egotism I have detested through life, and I hope the few remaining years that may be allotted to me will, as respects floriculture, be passed in the same fearless determination to speak out, when occasion offers, regardless of the favours which I know have been lavished upon some who are not over-scrupulous. I have omitted to notice in its proper place that the general opinion of Tulip growers is, that Vicar of Radford is nothing more than Anastasia, *alias* Fanny Cerito.

## Notes on a Few Pansies.

THE following are a few novelties, which I noted down for my own guidance. They were shown at Sheffield, in connection with the National Tulip Exhibition.

*Mrs. Hope.*—Not up to the mark as to form, but the colours first-rate. Yellow ground.

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*George Schofield.*—Yellow ground, dark colours, but deficient in eye.
*William Griffiths.*—Yellow ground, good variety.
*Red Rover* (Schofield).—Yellow ground, a good variety, distinct.
*Seedling No.* 29.—A slight improvement upon Great Western.
*Jeannie's Rival* (Shearer).—Dark, shaded with blue. Good.
*Una* (Downie & Laird).—White, light purple belting. Good.
*Seedling No.* 46.—Yellow ground. Good.
*Rebecca* (Syme & Middlemas).—White ground, margined with purple. Good.
*General Williams* (Schofield).—Yellow ground, and rich crimson. Good.
*Yellow Model* (Hooper).—Yellow self, but a very slight improvement upon Mrs. Dodwell.
*Refinement* (Schofield).—Yellow ground, rich marone. Fine.
*Dred* (Syme & Middlemas).—Dark self, good size and substance.
*Abbotsford* (Lightbody).—White and rich purple, not extra or striking.

JOHN SLATER.

*Cheetham Hill, near Manchester.*

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## MOIRA HORTICULTURAL FETE,

AND THE

# National Carnation and Picotee Exhibition.

OWING partly to the National Carnation and Picotee Society holding their annual meeting in connection with the Moira Floral and Horticultural Society, the fete, which came off on Wednesday, the 4th of August, had been looked forward to as *the* exhibition of the season. By an excellent arrangement, exhibiters and reporters were allowed to go and come by any train they might choose, on the day before and the day of exhibition. Availing ourselves of this opportunity, we started from Nottingham at nine o'clock, and passing through fields where the husbandman was busily engaged in reaping a glorious harvest, after a pleasant ride to Derby, and thence to far-famed Burton, we arrived at Moira, and there found the Park, as it is called, barricaded round, and a series of tents erected for the accommodation of visiters. The great attrac-

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tion, however, was a monster marquee, of circular shape, in which were arranged the cut flowers. Here was a splendid collection of Picotees, Carnations, and Hollyhocks, and some dried Mosses and other plants were displayed with great taste. It is needless to tell our readers that this tent was a most gorgeous sight, the two centre tables being completely covered with Hollyhocks, Picotees, and Carnations. The blooms exhibited were remarkably fine, considering that the season, owing to the hot days of June, was so far past; indeed, from this cause, the southern and midland districts had little chance against the northern growers. In Carnations, John Bayley, scarlet flake, took the premier prize, and will, we have no doubt, prove a very great acquisition. A purple flake, named Esther, also a new variety, was greatly admired. Of course, Sportsman (scarlet flake), Admiral Curzon (scarlet bizarre), Lord Milton, Lovely Ann, and Black Diamond were to be seen quite up to the mark, as old flowers. In Picotees, the premier prize was awarded to Mrs. Bayley, a heavy purple, and Mrs. Turner, Eva, Amy Robsart, and Ada Mary were all to be found in their usual places. The following are the awards of the judges in connection with the National Carnation and Picotee Society.

Class A (For Nurserymen).—Premier Prize, for the best Twelve CARNATIONS and the best Twelve White Ground PICOTEES, Dissimilar Varieties.—A silver cup, value six guineas, to Holland & Co., Chadderton, Manchester. *Carnations:* Friar Lawrence, seedling (purple flake), Sarah Payne, seedling (scarlet bizarre), Sir Joseph Paxton, Magnificent (Schofield), Admiral Curzon, Premier, John Bayley, Julia, Sportsman, Falconbridge. *Picotees:* Lord Nelson, Mrs. Turner, Cedo Nulli, Prince of Wales, Amy Robsart, Mrs. Norman, seedling, Mrs. Drake, Venus, Bertha, Alice, Mrs. Bayley.

Class B (For Private Growers).—Premier Prize, for the best Twelve CARNATIONS, to contain not less than Nine Dissimilar Varieties, and the best Twelve White Ground PICOTEES, to contain not less than Nine Dissimilar Varieties.—A silver cup, value six guineas, to H. Steward, Esq., York. *Carnations:* King John, Hope, Friar Lawrence, Beauty of Woodhouse, Slater's Warrior, Uncle Tom, Falconbridge, Splendour (2), Lord Goderich, Uncle Tom, Lewisham. *Picotees:* Mrs. Hoyle, Alfred, Mrs. Turner, Mrs. Bayley, Haidee, Charles Turner, Mrs. Bayley, Mrs. Barnard, Lord Nelson, Alice, Finis, Mrs. Hoyle.

Class C (Cultivators whose Stock shall not exceed One Hundred and Fifty Pairs).—Premier Prize, for the best Six CARNATIONS, and the

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best Six White Ground PICOTEES, Dissimilar Varieties.—A silver cup, value three guineas, to E. Wood, York. *Carnations:* Jenny Lind, King John, Sir J. Paxton, Defiance, Aglaia, Canrobert. *Picotees:* Mrs. Bayley, Eva, Lord Nelson, Ada Mary, Alice, Mrs. Dodwell.

Class D (Nurserymen).—Twelve CARNATIONS, Dissimilar Varieties.—1. Charles Turner, Royal Nurseries, Slough, seedling, Coronation, Descendant, Garland, Sportsman, Touchstone, William Pitt, Defiance, seedling, Hope, Admiral Curzon. 2. Holland & Co., John Bayley, Lovely Ann, Admiral Curzon, Sarah Payne, seedling (rose flake), Falconbridge, Premier, Ivanhoe, Squire Meynell, Sir Joseph Paxton, Sportsman, Julia. 3. Mr. Oswald, Birmingham, Lady Rhodes, Sir Joseph Paxton, Favourite, Lorenzo, Poor Tom, Agamemnon, Lady Curzon, Lord Lewisham, John Bayley, Aglaia, Premier, Defiance. 4. Mr. Whitehead, Oldham, Sportsman, Music, Christopher Sly, Lord Milton, Earl Wilton, Constellation, Squire Trow, Ivanhoe, Splendid, Earl Wilton, Admiral Curzon, Lady Peel.

Class E (Nurserymen).—Twelve White Ground PICOTEES, Dissimilar Varieties.—1. Holland & Co., Lord Nelson, Amy Robsart, Lady Granville, Prince of Wales, Mrs. Barnard, Mrs. Norman, Venus, Bertha, seedling (heavy purple), Miss Holbeck, Haidee, Alice. 2. C. Turner, Ada Mary, Mrs. Hobbs, Rev. A. Matthews, Mrs. Hoyle, Mrs. Drake, Mrs. Lochner, Lauretta, Sultana, Mrs. Dodwell, Charles Turner, Alice, Amy Robsart. 3. Mr. Oswald, Lauretta, Mrs. May, Eva, Mrs. Lochner, Alfred, Ada Mary, Mrs. Norman, Lord Nelson, Mrs. Turner, Dr. Pitman, Green's Queen, Amy Robsart. 4. Mr. Whitehead, Haidee, Cedo Nulli, Alfred, Poor Jack, Lord Nelson, Mrs. Crowe, Mrs. Dodwell, Bertha, Mrs. Drake, Sultana, Miss Holbeck, Mrs. Norman.

Class F (Private Growers).—Twelve CARNATIONS, Nine Dissimilar Varieties.—1. J. O. Openshaw, Esq., Bury, Milton, Lady Ely, Lord Rancliffe, Squire Meynell, Ariel, Lord Rancliffe, seedling, Rainbow, Firebrand, Poor Tom, Admiral Curzon, York and Lancaster. 2. Mr. Brown, Handsworth, Flora's Garland, Admiral Curzon, Favourite, Lady Curzon, Favourite, Ariel, Grand Monarch, Falconbridge, Warrior, Mrs. Ainsworth, Lady Curzon, Black Diamond. 3. Mr. Baildon, Halifax, five seedlings, and Premier, Lovely Ann, Ivanhoe, Admiral Curzon, Admiral Curzon, Firebrand, Milton. 4. Mr. Yardley, Oldham, William Caxton, Admiral Curzon, Esther, Justice Shallow, Lady Ely, Mayor of Oldham, Sportsman, Earl Wilton, Duke of York, Splendour, Poor Tom, Brilliant. 5. Mr. Smith, Darlington, Cradley Pet, Lord Nelson, Sarah Payne, Sir Joseph Paxton, Black Diamond, Firebrand, Poor Tom, Cradley Pet, Sportsman, Premier, Black Diamond, Admiral Curzon. 6. W. Parkinson, Derby, Premier, Admiral Curzon, Premier, Sir Joseph Paxton, Black Diamond, Firebrand, Admiral Curzon, Black Diamond, John Bayley, True Briton, Cradley Pet, Mayor of Oldham.

Class G, Twelve PICOTEES.—Nine Dissimilar Varieties.—1. H. Steward, Esq., Mrs. Bayley, Mrs. Barnard, Mrs. Eyre, Green's Queen, Mrs. Dodwell, Lord Nelson, Lauretta, Finis, Lord Nelson, Charles Turner, Mrs. Dodwell, Mrs. Bayley. 2. Mr. Brown, Mrs. Lochner, Alfred, Ada Mary, Queen, Eva, Mrs. Dodwell, Amy Robsart, Mrs. Bayley, Alfred, Rosetta, Queen, Mrs. Dodwell. 3. J. O. Openshaw, Esq., Eugenie, Alfred, Mrs. Turner, Mrs. May, Amy Robsart, Bertha, Lord Nelson, Eugenie, Mrs. Crowe, Mrs. Norman, Miss Holbeck, Mrs. Keynes. 4. J. Walton, Derby, Alfred, Mrs. Norman, Mrs. Barnard, Mrs. Bayley, Mrs. Dodwell, Miss Holbeck,

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Mrs. Turner, Lord Nelson, Green's Queen, Alfred, Alice. 5. Mr. Smith, Darlington, Crystal, Mrs. Dodwell, Eva, Ada Mary, seedling, Mrs. Turner, Haidee, Eva, Eva, Alfred, seedling, Mrs. Bayley. 6. Mr. Hedderley, Sneinton, Notts., Green's Queen, Mrs. Turner, Mrs. Eyre, Lauretta, Ada Mary, Lord Nelson, Mrs. Norman, Amy Robsart, Mrs. Bayley, Dr. Pitman, Mrs. Bayley. Mr. Fisher, Mickleover, was placed fifth in this class by the judges, but was disqualified through only having eight varieties in his stand.

Class H (Cultivators whose Stock shall not exceed One Hundred and Fifty Pairs).—Six CARNATIONS, Dissimilar Varieties.—1. W. M. Hewitt, Chesterfield, Friar Lawrence, Squire Meynell, Defiance, Admiral Curzon, Christopher Sly, Falconbridge. 2. Mr. Addis, Wolverhampton, Falconbridge, Lorenzo, Favourite, Defiance, Admiral Curzon, John Bayley. 3. Mr. Brierley, Chadderton, Firebrand, Martha, Earl Wilton, Lovely Ann, Admiral Curzon, Rainbow. 4. Mr. Hedderley, King John, Lord Rancliffe, Sportsman, Hope, Squire Meynell, Admiral Curzon. 5. W. Parkinson, Squire Meynell, Admiral Curzon, Premier, Sportsman, Black Diamond, Firebrand. 6. J. Chapman, Halifax, Admiral Curzon, Premier, seedling, Lorenzo, Milton, Baildon's No. 49. 7. Mr. Williamson, Oldham, Music, Mr. Jepson, Admiral Curzon, Sir Joseph Paxton, Poor Tom, Mayor of Oldham.

Class I (Cultivators whose Stock shall not exceed One Hundred and Fifty Pairs).—Six PICOTEES, Dissimilar Varieties.—1. E. Wood, Mrs. Bayley, Ada Mary, Lord Nelson, Dr. Pitman. Mrs. Barnard, Mrs. Dodwell. 2. W. M. Hewitt, Green's Queen, Amy Robsart, Mrs. Norman, Mrs. Barnard, Lady Grenville, Miss Holbeck. 3. W. Parkinson, Mrs. Norman, Amy Robsart, Bertha, Alfred, Venus, Ada Mary. 4. J. Walton, Green's Queen, Rosetta, Mrs. Norman, Amy Robsart, Alfred, Miss Holbeck. 5. Mr. Hedderley, Green's Queen, Mrs. Crowe, Dr. Pitman, Ada Mary, Mrs. Bayley, Princess Royal. 6. J. Fisher, Mickleover, Mrs. Norman, Mrs. Crowe, Mrs. Dodwell, Charles Turner, Amy Robsart, Venus. 7. Mr. Brierley, seedling, Mrs. Kelk, Lord Nelson, Amy Robsart, seedling, Venus.

## CARNATIONS.

*Scarlet Bizarres.*

1 Admiral Curzon, J. Whitehead
2 Sir Joseph Paxton, W. Smith
3 Admiral Curzon, Holland & Co.
4 Admiral Curzon, J. Gibbons
5 Easom's Admiral Curzon, J. J. Openshaw, Esq.
6 Admiral Curzon, W. Parkinson

*Crimson Bizarres.*

1 Lord Milton, J. J. Openshaw, Esq.
2 Ditto, ditto
3 Lord Goderich, T. Wood
4 Duke of Bedford, J. J Openshaw
5 Cartwright's Rainbow, ditto
6 Ditto ditto

*Pink and Purple Bizarres.*

1 Sarah Payne, Holland & Co.
2 Ditto, ditto
3 Sarah Payne, Holland & Co.
4 Sarah Payne, Brown
5 Sarah Payne, Holland & Co.
6 Ditto, ditto

*Purple Flakes.*

1 Squire Meynell, Gibbons
2 Esther, Holland & Co.
3 Pilot, ditto
4 Beauty of Woodhouse, Walmsley
5 Esther, Holland & Co.
6 Premier, Gibbons

*Rose Flakes.*

1 Lovely Ann, Holland & Co.
2 Lady Ely, Walmsley
3 Rose of Castellan, Holland & Co;
4 Uncle Tom, Steward
5 Uncle Tom, Baildon
6 Poor Tom, Holland & Co.

## PICOTEES.

*Heavy-edged Purple.*

1 Mr. May, Holland & Co.
2 Mrs. Bayley, Wood
3 Lord Nelson, Walmsley
4 Lord Nelson, Walmsley
5 Lord Nelson, J. J Openshaw, Esq.
6 Mr. Bayley, Walmsley

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*Light-edged Purple.*

1 Amy Robsart. Hewitt
2 Amy Robsart, J J. Openshaw, Esq.
3 Ditto, ditto
4 Ditto, ditto
5 Ditto, ditto
6 Venus, Steward

*Heavy-edged Red.*

1 Mrs. Hoyle, C. Turner
2 Mrs. Dodwell, W. Smith
3 Mrs. Lochner, Steward
4 Mrs. Norman, Holland & Co.
5 Seedling, ditto
6 Mrs. Norman, J. J. Openshaw, Esq.

*Light-edged Red.*

1 Ada Mary, C. Turner
2 Lauretta, ditto
3 Miss Holbeck, J. J. Openshaw, Esq.
4 Miss Holbeck, W. Hewitt
5 Miss Holbeck, J. J. Openshaw, Esq.
6 Miss Holbeck, Holland & Co.

*Heavy-edged Rose.*

1 Venus, Holland & Co.
2 Alice, W. Hewitt
3 Alice, Wood
4 Venus, Holland & Co.
5 Ditto, ditto
6 Green's Queen, Hewitt

*Light-edged Rose.*

1 Bertha, Holland & Co.
2 Bertha, J. J. Openshaw, Esq.
3 Ditto. ditto
4 Bertha, Holland & Co.
5 Mrs. Turner, Wood
6 Mrs. Turner, Holland & Co.

*Yellow Ground.*

1 Consolation, W. Smith
2 Dr. Horner, ditto
3 Seedling No. 3, ditto
4 Seedling No. 4, ditto
5 Seedling (Fancy), ditto
6 Seedling No. 5, ditto

The cut flowers attracted much attention. The Hollyhocks of Mr. Chater, of Saffron Walden, not for competition, and those from Messrs. Paul & Son, of Cheshunt, attracted a numerous throng of admirers. The varieties most deserving attention were, Lady Middleton, Pourpre de Tyre, Hon. Mrs. Ashley, Cerise unique, Purpurea alba, Empress, Comet (Chater), Joan of Arc, Phillis, Walden Masterpiece, Leonora, Miss Nightingale, Inimitable, Beauty of Cheshunt, White Globe, Gloria Mundi, Queen of the Buffs, Red Rover, Veritas. These were all exhibited in the spike, whilst Constellation, Leonice, In Memoriam, Lady Palmerston, Sir C. Campbell, Sulphurea, Lady Tarlatan, Solfaterre, Purple Perfection, Plutarch, Waterloo, Brisiés, Queen of Yellows, Hon. Mrs. Ashley, Havelock, Beauty of Walden, and Memnon, were exhibited in single blooms. Mr. Paul exhibited Roses, not for competition. The first prize for cut flowers was awarded to Mr. Small, and the second to Mr. Gibbons. The Potatoes were really wonderful. We cannot remember ever before seeing them so large or fine. Autumn Onions, Carrots, Parsnips, Broad Beans, Kidney Beans, Fruit, especially Grapes and Melons,—we never saw finer Black Hamborough Grapes—all met with admirers, as did also the Achimenes, skeleton leaves, Verbenas, Petunias, Fuchsias, Lilium lancifolium, &c. Two bands were in attendance, and as far as the exhibition went, thanks to

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Mr. Saunders, the indefatigable hon. secretary, every thing was as well arranged as could possibly be desired. As for the railway accommodation for the excursionists, we would rather say nothing about it. It rained at night, the travellers were without shelter, and reached home a little after midnight.

## The Queen's Graperies, Brighton.

IN passing through this extensive nursery, the other day, I saw several very pretty flowering plants, in beds and in pots, and, through the courtesy of Messrs. Sparey and Campbell, I was permitted to take notes of a few of the newest and best, thinking they would be interesting to your readers.

THE BEST OF THE FUCHSIAS SENT OUT IN 1857.

*Little Bopeep.*—Fine dark variety, with *very large* purple corolla.
*Catherine Hayes.*—Ditto ditto, with bluish slate corolla.
*Souvenir de Chiswick.*—Ditto, with very large *reflexed* petals.
*Silver Swan.*—A light variety, with different coloured corolla.
*Fairest of the Fair.*—Ditto, ditto.
*The Fair Oriana.*—Dito, ditto.
All the above are of good habit.

THE BEST OF THE FUCHSIAS SENT OUT IN 1858.

*Princess of Prussia.*—The *best grown* of all the *white* corolla varieties.
*Rose of Castile.*—Light sepals, *puce*-coloured corolla. Striking.
*Queen of the Sea.*—A fine dark variety, with reflexed sepals, good habit, and beautifully grown and flowered.
The above are the *cream* of twenty-six or twenty-seven new sorts, sent out in 1857 and 1858.

NEW DOUBLE PETUNIAS, LARGE FLOWERS, RECOMMENDED FOR POTS.

*Antigone and Madame Lamer.*—Best large whites.
*Van Houttei.*—Best large rose.
*Napoleon III. and Victor de Pruines.*—Best large purples.

NEW DOUBLE PETUNIAS, SMALL FLOWERS, MORE ADAPTED FOR THE BORDER.

*Red Cross Banner.*—Purple. | *La Perfection.*—White.
*President.*—Ditto. | *Polydore.*—Lilac.
*Purpurea pleurissima.*—Ditto. | *Glory of Lyons.*—Pale lilac.
These flower well bedded out.

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HELIOTROPES.

*Margaret Wilson.*—A very fine light variety, and free-flowering, for pots.

*Miss Nightingale and Jean Mesmer.*—The best two ever tried for bedding. *Very* good.

VERBENAS.

*Topsy* (1858).—A great acquisition. It is like Rouge et Noir in colour. A most excellent habit and full-sized flowers.

*Eclipse* (1858).—A nice compact scarlet, and by many will be preferred to Defiance.

*Moonlight* (1856).—Proves to be the best white, beating Mrs. Holford both in growth and size, and purity of colour.

*Standard Bearer, Victory, and Geant de Batailles,* are not beaten, or even approached, in their respective colours.

SUMMER-FLOWERING CHRYSANTHEMUMS,

Now (Aug. 7) in full bloom.

*La Niege.*—New. The nearest to pure white. Fine

*Andromeda.*—The best rose colour.

*Arc en Ciel.*—The best purple crimson.

*Scarlet Gem.*—The best brown crimson.

*Orion.*—The best bright yellow.

*St. Flore.*—The best cream.

These make nice beds, and are the best six out of thirty.

M. BUSBY, F.H.S.

# The Exhibitions of the Month.

STAMFORD HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—Whenever we see anything of merit that we think will be of general interest to our readers, we make some note of it, and as the exhibition at Stamford is certainly one of the best, if not the best, in the provinces, we deem it our duty to lay before our readers some short account of its general features. With regard to the Stamford exhibition, there are peculiarities which, we are sorry to say, are not general. The nobleman and the wealthy amateur, the nurseryman, the humbler or middle class amateur, and the cottager have classes devoted to each, and in all these classes there are such prizes as will stimulate every member, and give a zest to the delightful pursuit of horticulture. The exhibition was held as last year, in the grounds of O. Edmonds, Esq. The plants were arranged in six large marquees, and in the centre (not under tents, as last year, which we then observed spoilt the effect of the music), were the band, on elevated platforms. The stove and greenhouse plants were not quite equal to what we



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have seen. The Fuchsias were exceedingly well grown specimens—not too tall, but bushy, and full of bloom. The varieties Pearl of England, Banks's Glory, and Clapton Hero were the best. Gloxineas rosea mutabilis and Princess of Prussia were nicely shown. A very pretty large double white Petunia, General Havelock, was very fine, and we were assured it was a remarkably free bloomer; if so, it is well worthy of cultivation. In Achimenes, the best were reticulata, Treherne Thomas, Ambroise Verschaffelt, Chelsonii, and Margarette. A Scarlet Geranium, Lady Middleton, was a remarkably good trusser, and the Scarlet Geraniums in general were very good. Petunia Inimitable, Crassulas, Cockscombs, and Balsams were also very fine, while some German Stocks, in six-inch pots, looked really unique, and were universally admired. With the Roses we were at a loss. Whether it was the crinoline, or the number of ladies who would crush forward to look at the "little beauties," it is a positive fact, that although we made three several attempts, we could only obtain a cursory glance. We must, therefore, lump them, and say they were very good, as the names of the winners (Messrs. Paul, of Cheshunt, and the Rev. S. Reynolds Hole, who took the first prizes of silver cups,) will testify. The boxes of Messrs. Francis, of Hertford, were also worthy of every commendation. In the same tent where the Queen of Flowers was surrounded by other queens of creation, the fruit was exhibited, and was almost as great an attraction as the Roses. The basket exhibited by the Marquis of Exeter was particularly good, and was arranged with remarkably good taste. Ere we close this brief account, we must say a word about the cottagers. Their productions were admirable, and consisted of Gooseberries, Currants, Potatoes, Cabbages, Carrots, Turnips, Onions, nosegays, &c. The exertions of Mr. H. Johnson, the honorary secretary of the society, must not be forgotten. We visited the exhibition *incog.*, and we will say that no one could have shown more cordiality and kindness in affording accommodation and information.

Nottingham Horticultural Society.—The second exhibition of this ancient society, for the present season, was held in the Exchange Rooms, on Wednesday, July 7. At the usual hour, two o'clock, the exhibition was opened to the subscribers, when a numerous and highly fashionable company soon assembled, and continued to fill the rooms during the day. In consequence of the late hot and unpropitious weather, only a moderate show was expected, but it gives us pleasure to state, that through the exertions of the members of the society, the exhibition was decidedly the best ever held in these rooms, for never since we have had the pleasure of attending these periodical displays, has it been our lot to witness a richer or more varied collection of flowers and plants. The exhibition was one of no ordinary character, and in addition to the numerous specimens exhibited, the stages presented some of

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the rarest and most beautiful productions of Flora's kingdom. It is a difficult matter for those uninitiated in the peculiar beauties of the various plants to point out such as are most worthy of attention, but the collections to which prizes were awarded, were truly splendid, both in growth and bloom, and on entering the large room, we may be pardoned if we exclaimed in the words of Moore,

"And what a wilderness of flowers!
It seem'd as though from all the bowers
And fairest fields of all the year
The mingled spoil was scatter'd here.
The room, too, like a garden breathes
With the rich buds that o'er it lie."

We must not allow this opportunity to pass without noticing the great improvement as respects select plants. The stove and greenhouse plants were really splendid. We cannot find room to describe all, or even a small portion of the articles exhibited, but shall give the awards in the usual place.

BRITISH POMOLOGICAL SOCIETY, ST. MARTIN'S HALL.—The anniversary meeting was held on the 5th of August, R. Hogg, Esq., vice-president, in the chair. Several gentlemen were elected members, and the accounts for the past year were submitted and approved. After paying all expenses incurred by the society, there was a balance in hand. Mr. Edmonds, of Chiswick, and Mr. Busby were added to the council, in the room of Messrs. Hedon and I. Lee. Mr. Davidson was appointed secretary, in the room of Mr. J. Spencer, resigned. Mr. Rivers sent a small early Peach, the size of the Acton Scot. It is well-flavoured, very juicy, melting, sweet, and vinous. Mr. R. also sent the little Peach, called Petite Mignone, a nice-flavoured early variety. Mr. J. Veitch, of Exeter, sent three varieties of Syrian Apricots, of the Faisha breed. No. 27 is the best, and is a delicious variety, remarkably melting and juicy, sweet and rich flavoured. Mr. Veitch stated that he had several standards of this sort, in the open ground, full of fruit, but not yet ripe. Messrs. Paul, of Cheshunt, sent bunches of a variety of Sweetwater Grape, called Froc de Boulay, recommended by the French as the best Grape for out-of-doors cultivation. These were grown in an ordinary greenhouse, and were very similar to the Prolific Sweetwater. Mr. Wighton, of Cossey Hall, near Norwich, sent a bunch of a seedling Black Grape, resembling in appearance the Black Prince. It is a good Grape, and should it be found to hang long, will be desirable, The meeting requested Mr. W. to send it again, later in the season. Mr. J. Pottle, of the Grove, Little Bealing, near Woodbridge, sent a specimen of a new variety of Melon, raised by himself. The shape is an ovalish round, white colour, and netted; the skin is remarkably thin, the flesh very melting, and the flavour excellent. The society considered it a variety of great excellence. Mr. James Veitch, of Exeter, exhibited fruit of a new white Mulberry, with the following remarks:—"This is the first year of fruiting the Syrian Sweet

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White Mulberry, which is against an east wall. The foliage is very fine, and as a standard, it makes a very ornamental tree, worth cultivation, even if it never bore fruit." The fruit, as exhibited, is as large as the common black Mulberry, but is pearly white, and perfectly sweet. It is a most desirable variety, and a most useful addition to our new fruits. Messrs. Milne, Arnott, & Co., of the Vauxhall Nursery, exhibited excellent specimens of White Dutch Currants, from plants two years old, in the nursery quarters. Mr. Lane exhibited, in a pot, a plant of Prunus myrobalana (the Myrobalan or Cherry Plum), which was studded with its bright cornelian fruit, and was a pretty object. The next meetings will be held in St. James's Hall, 69 and 71, Regent-street, London, W.—M. Busby, F.H.S.

## The Manchester Gooseberry Meeting,

At the Sir John Falstaff Inn, August 7, 1858.

In accordance with a resolution, passed at a meeting of Gooseberry growers, held at the Sir John Falstaff Inn, Market-place, Manchester, on the 3rd of April last, a circular, containing regulations for the exhibition of seedlings and soliciting aid, was submitted to the Gooseberry growers in each district, and they cheerfully contributed the sum of four pounds, five shillings, and twopence, which enabled the society to award the following prizes, entrance-free.

The first prize (6s.) for the best seedling of any colour, was awarded to Mr. Joseph Walton, for his yellow seedling, *Leviathan*, 26dwt. 1gr., a long smooth three-veined berry, in form of Clayton, the veins a little sunk, colour a deep olive green, suffused with yellow, giving it a bronzy appearance. Distinct and promising. Several sound kindly-ripened two and three-veined berries of this variety were exhibited.

RED CLASS.

First Prize, 3s. 6d.—Mr. Solomon Etchell's red, *Major Hibbert*, 25dwt. 23gr., a long smooth two-veined berry, with plump nose, a little taper towards the stalk. Length two inches and one-eighth, colour light bright red, which is evenly distributed, veins level with the surface. Several berries were exhibited, all of one form, the largest being in an unripe state. A sound late sort, and distinct.

Second Prize, 3s.—Mr. James Biddulph's red, *Try it again*, 22dwt., a long smooth two-veined flat-formed berry, taper from nose to stalk on the flat side, but carries its thickness on the broad side to the shoulder; colour deep bright red, speckled with greyish white, the veins deep green, broad, and a little sunk. Distinct.

Third Prize, 2s. 9d.—Mr. John Barker's red, *Heathcoate*, 20dwt. 18gr., a plump smooth two-veined berry, in form of Wonderful, the nose coloured with deep purplish red, the remainder dark olive green, of a yellowish hue, suffused with specks of purplish red. A soft kindly-ripened berry, and distinct.

Fourth Prize, 2s. 3d.—Mr. Joseph Walton's red, *Ploughboy* 20dwt. 6gr., a smooth three-veined berry, colour bright cherry red

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with scarlet veins, level with the surface, resembling Catherine in form. A sound late beautiful variety, and distinct.

Fifth Prize, 2s.—Mr. William Maddox's red, *Lungeous*, 19dwt. 3gr., a rough two-veined berry, with coarse puckered rind, and contracted veins, in form of a short two-veined London, when deficient of seed; colour dark purplish red, the unripe part dark dull green. A clumsy unkind looking variety. Distinct.

YELLOW CLASS.

First Prize, 3s. 6d.—Mr. William Far's yellow, *Weenbe*, 20dwt. 14gr., a short clumsy three-veined berry, a little rough, with heavy nose, gradually tapering to the shoulder, which is very flat; colour dull orange yellow, with green speckled veins. Distinct.

Second Prize, 3s.—Mr. John Lancashire's *Butcher*, 19dwt. 20gr., a long smooth two-veined kindly-ripened flat-formed berry, with heavy nose, tapering towards the stalk, on the flat side, with veins sunk, and the shoulder puffed up; colour bright golden yellow. Distinct.

Third Prize, 2s. 9d.—Mr. John Chapman's yellow, *High Sheriff*, a rough, three-veined berry, with coarse rind and strong spines, in form of Dan's Mistake; colour dull light orange yellow, with broad conspicuous green veins, level with the surface. Distinct.

Fourth Prize, 2s. 3d.—Mr. John Henshaw's *California*, 19dwt. 22gr., a rough plump three-veined berry, with supple rind, colour light greenish yellow, with veins of the same hue, level with the surface. A late sound sort, of the finest form. Distinct.

Fifth Prize, 2s.—Mr. Charles Leicester's yellow, *Pet*, 17dwt. 13gr., a long rough two-veined berry, with supple rind, resembling its parent, Catherine, in form; colour dark olive, suffused with yellow, not unlike a rich well-ripened Gunner in colour, but not so rough, and very dissimilar in form and vein. Distinct.

GREEN CLASS.

First Prize, 3s. 6d.—Mr. William Whittaker's green, *Horsepool*, 20dwt. 9gr., a smooth long three-veined berry, in form of London, colour a deep clear green, with broad veins, a little sunk, of the same hue. A late sound sort. Distinct, and one of the most promising seedlings shown on this occasion.

Second Prize, 3s.—Mr. James Wilson's green, *Let it*, 19dwt. 15gr., a short smooth three-veined berry, colour dark bright green. A late hard sort, and distinct.

Third Prize.—Mr. George Moscroft's green, *Miss Read*, 18dwt. 20gr., a long kindly-ripened berry, in form of Queen of Trumps, with soft even rind, a little rough, colour pale green, with narrow veins, level with the surface. Distinct.

Fourth Prize, 2s. 3d.—Mr. William Rhodes's green, *Galloper*, 18dwt. 15gr., a small plump three-veined berry, in form of Green Overall, colour bright dark green, almost as dark as Gretna Green. A late sound sort, and distinct.

Fifth Prize, 2s.—Mr. Joseph Dennis's *Charley*, 17dwt. 10gr., a short smooth round berry, colour a bright light green, with soft well-ripened rind. Apparently an early variety. Distinct.

WHITE CLASS.

First Prize, 3s. 6d.—Mr. Joseph Walton's white, *Terror*, 23dwt., a smooth round three-veined berry, in form of Lady Stanley, with broad conspicuous veins, and glassy rind, showing its seeds through the surface, although the berry was in an unripe state; colour dull white. A late sound sort. Distinct.



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Second Prize, 3s.—Mr. Thomas Amson's white, *Alice*, 21dwt. 22gr., a long smooth two-veined berry, with heavy nose, tapering to the shoulder, in form of a two-veined London. Colour dull white. Distinct.

Third Prize, 2s. 9d.—Mr. Joseph Walton's white, *Eva*, a long rough two-veined berry, in form of Catherina, colour dull greyish white. Distinct.

Fourth Prize, 2s. 3d.—Mr. George Wilkinson's white, *Overseer*, 19dwt. 1gr., a rough square-formed berry, colour dull speckled white, with green veins. A late hard sort. Distinct.

Fifth Prize, 2s.—Mr. George Beckitt's white, *Cotton Hall*, 20dwt. 12gr., a rough three-veined berry, in form of Dan's Mistake, colour a greyish white, with seed veins level with the surface. A late sound sort. Distinct and promising.

The judges were Mr. T. Chippendale, Tottleworth, Lancashire; Mr. E. Salsbury, Melbourne, Derbyshire; Mr. J. Daine, Carrington, Cheshire; Mr. J. Barker, Longton, Staffordshire; Mr. G. Beckett, Holms Chapel; Mr. Pickerill, Nottingham; and Mr. J. Walton, Styal.

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## GOOSEBERRY SHOW,

**At the Sir John Falstaff Inn, Market-place, Manchester, August 7.**

Maiden Prize.—London, Mr. Mayers, 27dwt. 2gr.

STEWARD'S PRIZES.

| | dwt | gr. |
|---|---|---|
| London, Mr. Torkington .... | 27 | 23 |
| Leviathan (seed.), Mr. Walton | 26 | 1 |
| Thumper, Mr. Lanceley..... | 23 | 12 |
| Antagonist, Mr. Bradley .... | 25 | 7 |
| Wonderful, Mr. Oldfield..... | 26 | 7 |
| Drill, Mr. Bell ..... | 23 | 12 |
| Green River, Mr. Baskerville | 22 | 4 |
| King of Trumps, Mr. Bell.... | 23 | 20 |
| Clayton, Mr. Pewgh ..... | 26 | 5 |
| Oldham, Mr. Pilkington .... | 23 | 3 |
| Telegraph, Mr. Wilson ..... | 22 | 0 |
| Queen of the West, Mr. Oldfield | 22 | 13 |
| Major Hibbert (seed.), Etchells | 25 | 23 |
| Catherina, Mr Mayers ..... | 20 | 13 |
| Greenock, Mr. Leicester..... | 21 | 10 |
| Freedom, Mr. Whittaker .... | 20 | 16 |

RED.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| London, Mr. Mayers ..... | 27 | 2 |
| Clayton, Mr. Bradley..... | 25 | 17 |
| Beauty Mr. Lanceley ..... | 24 | 16 |
| Wonderful, Mr. Lanceley .... | 23 | 6 |
| General Moore, Mr. Bradley.. | 23 | 0 |
| Alderman, Mr. Torkington .. | 23 | 3 |
| Dan's Mistake, Mr. Pilkington | 22 | 9 |
| Slaughterman, Mr. Oldfield .. | 21 | 21 |

YELLOW.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Leveller, Mr. Walton..... | 24 | 3 |
| Drill, Mr. Lanceley..... | 23 | 11 |
| Catherina, Mr. Torkington.... | 23 | 2 |

| | dwt | gr. |
|---|---|---|
| Leader, Mr. Lanceley..... | 22 | 18 |
| Peru, Mr. Pewgh..... | 22 | 6 |
| Go-by, Mr. Walton..... | 21 | 19 |
| Oldham, Mr. Ball..... | 21 | 0 |
| California (seed.), Mr. Wilson | 19 | 21 |
| Tiger, Mr. Leicester ..... | 19 | 21 |
| Moreton Hero, Mr. Oldfield.. | 19 | 9 |

GREEN.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Thumper, Mr. Lanceley..... | 24 | 20 |
| General, Mr. Lanceley ..... | 23 | 21 |
| Peacock, Mr. Bradley..... | 22 | 0 |
| Seedling, Mr. Whittaker .... | 20 | 6 |
| Weathercock, Mr. Torkington | 20 | 15 |
| Random Green, Mr. Pilkington | 20 | 7 |
| Stockwell, Mr. Torkington .. | 20 | 5 |
| Reamer (seedling), Mr. Walton | 19 | 17 |
| Greenock, Mr. Leicester..... | 19 | 16 |
| Gretna Green, Mr. Daine .... | 18 | 16 |

WHITE.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| London City, Mr. Walton..... | 24 | 11 |
| King of Trumps, Mr. Hall .. | 23 | 15 |
| Free-trade, Mr. Bell ..... | 23 | 12 |
| Antagonist, Mr. Wilkinson .. | 23 | 4 |
| Terror (seedling), Mr. Walton | 23 | 0 |
| Freedom, Mr. Bradley ..... | 22 | 2 |
| Lady Leicester, Mr. Bell .... | 22 | 13 |
| Lady Stanley, Mr. Pilkington.. | 20 | 21 |
| Alma, Mr. Torkington ..... | 19 | 18 |
| Queen of the West, Mr. Oldfield | 19 | 9 |

Judges.—Mr. E. Salsbury, Mr. T. Dabell, Mr. T. Chippendale.

CHARLES LEICESTER.

*Macclesfield.*

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# Our Miscellany.

IN arranging my Tulips, this morning, I found, in a tin box, two roots and two offsets, which had been out of the ground since last year. One of the roots was partly decayed, but the others were perfectly sound, and, I have no doubt, will grow as well as those taken up this year. It is well known that seeds will lie in the ground for numberless years, and when brought into a favourable position, as regards heat, moisture, and soil, will germinate. Some insects also, will continue for years in the pupæ state, and wait until we have almost a tropical summer, to enable them to throw of their mask, and come forth perfect. I see no reason why Tulip roots should not keep, if excluded from the light, &c., even more than one year, and I intend to try the experiment on a few, to see if it will have any effect on the future flower, and also if it will have any influence in causing breeder Tulips to break.—T. ALLESTREE.

THE MAY QUEEN STRAWBERRY.—It will be interesting to know that Mr. Nicholson, the well known successful Strawberry grower, at Egglescliffe, near Yarm, in Yorkshire, is about introducing to the gardening world a new variety of this useful fruit, which differs essentially from most sorts in cultivation. Mr. N. very properly calls this sort "The May Queen," on account of ripening its fruit, in the north of England, and in the open ground, without any protection whatever, in the latter part of May. The undersigned having, last autumn, been presented with a few plants, and after carefully testing its merits, has much pleasure in asserting, that the May Queen is one of the most extraordinary Strawberries ever raised, especially for early culture, as it is fully fourteen days earlier than the Black Prince, hitherto a favourite for that purpose, whilst its flavour is much superior to that of the last-named kind. Independent of its high perfume, it has a title to general attention, on account of setting its fruit much easier than the Black Prince, even under the most unfavourable circumstances. The May Queen is a first-rate forcer, and succeeds well in small pots, say of four inches. It will, therefore, prove invaluable, particularly in England, to all those who want earliness, abundance, and quality.—FERDINAND GLOEDE, *aux Sablons, near Moret sur Loing, France, June* 29, 1858.

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## Notes and Queries.

CAN you, or some of your correspondents, give me the names and description of about a dozen Shrubby Calceolarias, showy, and obtainable at a moderate price, for pot culture? I should be glad to see some hints on their culture, in a future number of the *Midland Florist*.—R.E.

AN AMATEUR IN TROUBLE.—Mildew is not difficult to cure, if taken in time. As soon as the first symptoms appear, which is generally on the stems, in rather large dark-coloured blotches, well dust the affected parts with flowers of sulphur, allowing it to remain twenty-four hours, and then wash it off with the syringe. If the first dusting is not effectual, repeat it, and if a healthy brisk heat has been kept up, with a sufficient amount of air to cause a lively circulation, in the morning, the house being closed at night, I think the good effects will be apparent. Another plan is to paint the top of the upper pipe or flue, not all over, but at intervals, when cold, with paint made of flowers of sulphur. Close the house and light the fire, get up the heat gradually and keep the house close all night, but don't overheat the pipes. With the two methods combined, I have cured it, after the mycellium has been formed. The cause is difficult to solve, but I think that too large an amount of confined moisture, combined with a low temperature, would have a tendency to create mildew; also sudden checks, to which the Vine is often subject, through a sudden fall in the weather outside, which often continues for some time, and the air in the inside being allowed to fall too low, at a period when a brisk heat would certainly be required, if success is to be expected.—M. BUSBY, F.H.S.

Mr. Editor, I have for two seasons grown Balsams, or rather they should be called skeletons of Balsams. They have all been good colours, but simply one main shoot, and no side branches, while I have seen this year some almost like Gooseberry bushes. Will some one furnish for publication in the *Midland Florist*, a short paper on their culture. It would, I have no doubt, be read with great interest,—J. H., *Reading*.—— Perhaps some kind friend will oblige us with his experience.—A. G. S.

## Calendar of Operations.

AZALEAS.—If any are wanted to bloom at Christmas, towards the end of the month, select those with the most forward buds, and place them in a warm greenhouse, to bring them on gradually. If not already done, the house should be prepared, without delay, to receive the plants, when

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cold wet days and frosty mornings come.—EDWARD CLEETON, *gardener to E. Holland, Esq., M.P., Dumbleton.*

AURICULAS.—Same as last month, with the exception of keeping off rain, and being a little more sparing with the watering pot, towards the end of the month.—JOHN HEPWORTH, *Leyton.*

CARNATIONS AND PICOTEES.—This will be a busy month for the Carnation grower. He must lose no time in getting his compost together, to pot his plants. This should be composed of good soil, rotten manure, coarse sand, and leaf mould. The pots should be five inches in diameter, and have plenty of crocks at the bottom, for drainage, and two or three plants may be put in each pot, Some writers recommend three-inch pots, and one plant in a pot. I have never found this to answer, as small pots are so soon droughted, and the plants do not remain healthy and vigorous, whilst those which are placed in the pots recommended are robust and strong. Were it not for planting out in spring, I should prefer growing them in soil prepared in a frame. Another plan, which will be found to answer well, is to pot at once all new varieties from the south, in the pots in which they are to bloom, and if possible, to procure them early in the spring, for being grown very strong in the south, the plants are kecksy, and shrivel up, during winter, so that no grass is made for a future season; but planting at once in the blooming pots, and keeping them in a frame, under glass, till May, will prevent them being shrivelled by the cold drying winds of spring, and keep them in a vigorous growing state. Again, some writers recommend October for potting Carnations out for winter quarters. I advise no delay. Plants with a few fibres do better than those with a large mass of roots. I have known the latter not to start again till spring, whilst the former grow rapidly, fill the pots with roots, and winter better. After potting, water with a fine rose, and shut them up in a frame, shaded, during sunny days, for a week, and then give them all the air possible; but if the sun is too hot, it will be as well to shade a little, or place the pots in a shady part of the garden.—JOHN SLATER, *Cheetham Hill, Manchester.*

CHRYSANTHEMUMS.—The Chrysanthemum is now getting very interesting, as its time for blooming is fast approaching. I have lately visited scores of amateur growers, round the metropolis, and never before saw the plants look so healthy and well. Almost every person possessing a few yards of a sunny spot has a Chrysanthemum in it, consequently it is now becoming the pet flower. Some of the large varieties, that have been trained to one stem, by taking off all side-shoots, are as thick as my thumb. The Pompones, grown for specimens, in eight-inch pots, are six or eight inches high, three feet six inches across, with three hundred shoots, and the symmetrical way they are grown, and the beautiful foliage, cause them to look splendid, even if they never show a flower. Small beds of Pompones, on grass, will look very pretty, if pegged down, like Verbenas. I have, this month, taken out all my inter-

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mediate Stocks, and filled the beds with Pompones, and keep pegging them down, which makes them look a very pretty green and short. Many of the large varieties are now showing the flower buds, and those that are intended for specimens should be chosen, and all the others taken off, with every lateral, or side shoot, as soon as it shows itself. Give plenty of liquid manure, often sprinkling the foliage, and don't allow too many suckers to be thrown up. Three or four blooms on one plant are quite enough. Spread out the border varieties as much as you can; by so doing, they will make a better display than double the number tied up like a birch broom. Watch for earwigs, trap as many as you can, and clear away all rubbish that is likely to harbour them. The caterpillars are now also getting very destructive, and must be sharply looked after. Don't neglect tying up, or the strong winds, which may now be expected very soon, will twist them off at the shoulder, if not at the root. "A stick in time saves nine." Put small sticks to Pompones, or they will share the same fate as the large ones, when the wind and wet comes. I should like to hear how our amateur friends are progressing with their specimen plants in pots. I hope they water three times a day, and sprinkle often with soft water.—S. Broome, F.H.S., *Temple Gardens.*

Cinerarias.—The principal thing to guard against, this month, will be mildew. As soon as it is observed, dust the parts affected with black sulphur, which will stop its progress. Shift all the plants, as soon as they have filled their pots with roots. Give plenty of air, and keep them close to the glass, to make them short and stocky. Seedlings may be potted into their blooming pots, at once. Increase those that are required, by continuing to put in cuttings round the rims of the pots, and placing them in a warm frame.—John Dobson, *Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth.*

Epacrises.—Let these have the full benefit of the sun. Tie and train those that require it. Get all things in readiness for housing the plants at the end of the month, if the weather should be wet, cold, and frosty. I am no advocate for housing plants too early, as I consider the dewy nights of autumn very beneficial to the Epacris.—E. Cleeton, *gardener to E. Holland, Esq., M.P., Dumbleton.*

Forcing Department.—*Early Vinery.*—Where the Vines are planted outside, the borders should be protected from heavy rains Keeping them dry through the autumn will be equal to gaining several degrees of bottom heat, which will be apparent in the more perfect maturing of the next season's bearing wood, and a more genial state of the roots, when early forcing begins. Vine borders, for early forcing, are generally made too flat, retaining too much moisture, and losing heat, by not presenting a sufficiently sloping surface to the sun's rays.—*Vines in Pots.*—Where the growth is complete, and the wood showing signs of firmness, the plants may be removed out of doors, to a south-east border, near the wall, plunged in any

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light dry material, and slightly shaded for a few days, at first, to preserve the foliage. They may remain here till the end of September.——*Late Vinery.*—If any plants are still remaining here, lose no time in removing them, or they will suffer from over-shading by the Vines, and lose that fine renovating season so well known to all good gardeners and medical men, who recommend cool open-air treatment, at this season, to their debilitated patients, who have been in confinement, under glass or otherwise. Give plenty of air, during the ripening process, and leave a portion on at top, during the night.——*Peach House.*—Keep the syringe still going, twice a-day, in fine weather. It will keep down insects, and induce a clean healthy foliage to the last.——*Fig House.*—These will be ripening off their last crop. Keep a nice genial moist temperature, to check the ravages of redspider, which is very fond of the leaves. Sprinkle the floors and all parts of the house, twice a-day, in bright weather, and syringe the plants overhead, at shutting-up time. Close early, and give a little air at top, the last thing, to be left during the night.—M. Busby, F.H.S.

Fuchsias.—Plants that have been encouraged for autumn flowering will now be in their beauty, which may be prolonged by a liberal supply of water, and removing the dead flowers. Those who desire large plants early, will do well to propagate cuttings at once. They may be kept gently moving all winter, and will make large plants by the end of May. Plants that have done flowering, may be put out of doors, to ripen the wood.—John Dobson, *Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth.*

Heathery.—The strong-growing winter-flowering sorts, such as Hyemalis, Simardeana, and Wilmoreana, now out of doors, should be placed in a sunny situation, and about the middle of the month, put all the intermediate growers in a clear open place. The delicate growers should be in a pit, or house, with plenty of air, day and night. If wet and cold, at the end of the month, house them all.—E. Cleeton, *gardener to E. Holland, Esq., M.P., Dumbleton.*

Kitchen Garden.—Plant out a good breadth of Cabbage, for spring cutting. Plant Bath Cos and Hammersmith Lettuce, to stand the winter. Plant Cauliflowers under hand-glasses and in frames. Continue to tie up Endive and Lettuce. Those planted in the frames, should still have the lights off, except in wet weather. Earth up Celery as it requires it, and dig Potatoes as they ripen.—William Shipley, *Westbury, Wilts.*

Pansies.—The very hot summer has been most unfavourable to the Pansy grower, and but for the late rains, the loss of stock would have been very great. If deficient of any varieties, lose no time in getting them in. Spring-struck plants will be very gay. See to making up beds, in which to winter them, Choose a dry situation. Prepare mould for potting up those intended to be grown in pots. Gather seed as soon as ripe. It may still be sown.—J. Dobson, *Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth.*

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PELARGONIUMS.—All plants that are standing about, out of doors, or in frames, should be at once removed to their winter quarters, which should be a nice dry house. Many plants are lost through putting them in a damp place. Those that were repotted last month may have abundance of air. Less water will now be required. Greenfly must be watched. Pot off young stock, and pinch the tops out of those that are long enough. Get the various soils into a dry shed, that they may be ready for use at any time.—JOHN DOBSON, *Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth.*

POLYANTHUSES will now be growing freely. Allow them all gentle rains throughout the month, but guard against hail-storms, slugs, and greenfly.—JOHN HEPWORTH, *Lea Bridge-road, Leyton.*

POMPONE CHRYSANTHEMUMS.—We will now suppose the grower has got the plant to the circumference required. Having reached the fastest growing month in the season, if he has not aimed at producing too large a plant, he will, by judicious training, be able to remedy any deficiency of form. A medium-sized plant may be made a good one, or an ill-looking plant may be made a handsome one. This, however, will not be the case with some (we are obliged to hear of) which have attained enormous size, such plants having reached their growth. Liquid manure of a stronger kind should now be supplied. In addition to cow dung, rabbit, sheep, fowl, or pigeon dung should be used. A little soot will benefit the foliage. Attend to pegging down, at every opportunity; also equalize the surface of the plant, as a level head of bloom depends wholly upon this. Should the grower have the opportunity, the specimens will be much benefited by taking them up altogether, examining the bottoms of the pots, and removing any roots that may appear. Stir the surface of the soil, top-dress with some loose rich compost, and return them to their former situation, plunge and peg down, and make any alteration in training that may be required. Should mildew make its appearance, dust them at night with sulphur, and wash it off next morning. Prepare for housing them next month.—JAMES HOLLAND, *gardener to R. W. Peake, Esq., Hounslow.*

ROSES.—Keep the heads of established Rose trees thin and clean, that the young shoots may thoroughly ripen. Look to young stock, budded this season. Those done early will require the ties loosening, and where the bud has started, a piece of wood should be tied firmly to the stock, and rise a foot or more above it, to secure the young shoot to, or it will be in danger of blowing out.——*In Pots.*—Those for early forcing should be repotted, to make their new roots early. Look over young stock, and shift all that will require it for this season. Keep them clean, by frequent syringing, and encourage a clean and healthy growth, by liberal supplies of liquid manure, in the early part of the month.—HENRY DAVIES, *Great Stanmore.*

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# Tulips and Tulip Beds.

1858.

THE Tulip season has again passed away, and the bloom of 1858 will long be remembered,—at least in the midland counties, as one of the best. It is often a matter of surprise to those not tinged with the Tulip mania that so much enthusiasm should be displayed in the cultivation of a flower that lasts so short a time, but we believe that the flowering is sufficiently long for the most enthusiastic cultivator, considering it is a time of so much pleasurable excitement, and it is only to be regretted that we have not the portraits of all the best varieties, from the hand of an Andrews, that their beauties might always be open to our view, so far as coloured plates could represent them. In our notes, we do not intend to notice the leading varieties which may be seen fine on almost every bed, but only those that are little known, at least to some cultivators, and those that are absolutely new. However, for the guidance of those commencing their cultivation, we would earnestly recommend the following twenty-four, as leading varieties, which may be obtained at a moderate price. *Feathered Roses*—Aglaia, Heroine, Mary Lamb, Fanny Cerito. *Flamed Roses*—Triomphe Royale, Aglaia, Lady Catherine Gordon, Fanny Cerito. *Feathered Byblœmens*—Maid of Orleans, Chellaston Beauty, Abbott's Gem, Victoria Regina. *Flamed Byblœmens*—Thalia, Blœmart, Gib-



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bons's Salvator Rosa, Sarah Ann. *Feathered Bizarres*—Sovereign, Vivid, Sphinx or Duke of Devonshire, Polyphemus. *Flamed Bizarres*—Pilot, Merit, Vivid, and Dutch Catafalque.

On our own bed, Joan of Arc was good, with a cup something in the shape of Polyphemus, feathered with dark rose. We remember Wood stating, in the *Midland Florist*, some years ago, that it would be a teazer for Heroine, and we do not yet despair of exhibiting it superior to that variety. Bion is beautiful as a feather; the flamed strain comes blue at the bottom of the beam. Napoleon, a fine scarlet feather, on a pure white ground, and good cup, is apt to come out of character, when transferred to a new situation; nevertheless, it is a beautiful and first-rate variety. A few years ago, we exhibited a bloom at Derby, that was third in the class, no mean position. Agnes, a delicate feathered rose with the Rev. S. Creswell, comes here with a heavy feather, and rather coarse. Miss Grace (Marshall) is a new and beautiful scarlet feathered rose. It was shown in good condition, at Sheffield. Rose Celestial feathered, and also the flamed strain, are quite second-rate varieties; the latter is stained. In flamed roses, Lady Gordon is perfectly pure, finely marked with bright rose, and is an addition to this scarce class, although the petals are too long, and the cup is not a good shape. Byblœmens—King Robert Bruce is perfectly pure, with a feather of light purple. It is late in blooming. Purity (Cotterill) is a decided acquisition, being, as its name indicates, perfectly pure, with a feather of darkish purple. Salvator Rosa (Brown), the best strain, is decidedly the finest flamed byblœmen we have. Many under this name are either not correct, or bad strains, consequently worthless. Salvator Rosa (Gibbons), called also Allen's Salvator Rosa, Kirke White, Excelsior, and perhaps other names, from different parties breaking it, was first broken and named by Allen. It is a beautiful variety, with fine markings. There is a sort, much like it, and goes by this name, that soon flushes, and is, we suspect, Gibbons's Beauty

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of the Plain. Blœmart, called also Mrs. Siddons and Duke of Northumberland, is a good variety, but as grown on our bed, the white, in two or three days, turned to a silvery grey. Sarah Ann (Gibbons) has several names. It is good variety, but often too full of colour. Lorenzo, called also Mrs. Lymbery, when feathered, and Duke of Orleans, by Orchard, for purity and marking, is not equalled, but the cup is rather too long. The two latter names may be dispensed with. Nepaulese Prince is a Chellaston, newly christened, and we believe the proper name is Britannia. It is good and perfectly pure in any state. Duchess of Sutherland (Walker), a fine large variety, shows well on the exhibition board. Masterpiece (Slater), of which we had three of the best feathered strain flowered on our bed, has a ground colour of fine yellow, edged with dark purple, but the petals are pointed, the cup rather too long, and the outer petals, before the bloom is expanded, are incurved, which has anything but a handsome appearance. Captain White feathered, called by the Lancashire growers Apelles, though the London flower with that name is totally different, is very fine, but ours had three slight specks, just perceptible, at the base of the filaments, similar, but not so conspicuous as in the flamed strain. Merit (Gibbons) differs from Pilot in having the beam of the same colour as the feathering; in the latter, it is two or three shades lighter. If from the same breeder, the former is a superior break. Henry Groom, a fine flamed bizarre, rather lightly marked. Mr. Perkins, pure, too full of colour, and the marking indistinct. Omar Pacha (Groom), on our bed, was stained, consequently shall reject it. Eldorado (Cottèrill), a distinct flamed bizarre, perfectly pure, and good shape, is a favourite with us. Sir J. Paxton, the best flamed strain, was good. Rear Admiral, a flamed bizarre, from the south, is a decided acquisition to the midland growers.

On the 23rd of May, we visited Nottingham, and saw a fine lot of seedlings, at the Rev. S. Creswell's, in

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addition to his old and named varieties. Amongst the former, was a very fine byblœmen breeder, perfectly pure, of good shape, and petals mouse-coloured. One had broken, but it was not a good break; the outer petals were correctly feathered, but in the inner, the colour was run down too much. It is named Mrs. Creswell. A delicate feathered byblœmen, Miss Creswell, was pure and of good shape, but not equal to the last. Bishop of Lincoln appeared to be identical with Groom's Victoria Regina. There were several fine breeders on the seedling bed, and a particular fine rose breeder, not named. On the best bed, was Vicar of Radford, very fine, both feathered and flamed. The proper name is Fanny Cerito. It is a Chellaston, and in a flamed state, called also Anastasia. Miss Edgeworth is nothing but a fine Triomphe Royale, but we understand this strain is remarkably steady, and always comes good. Cerise Primo Superb was a nice feathered rose; as was also Mrs. Neilson; Lady Douro was a delicate feathered byblœmen, and, as grown here, a desirable variety. Prince of the Netherlands was a very good feathered bizarre, something like a feathered Captain White, but perfectly pure.

At Mr. Lymbery's, Arlette was a fine scarlet feathered rose. Lady Lilford was perfectly pure, with a nice scarlet feather. Kate Connor was very fine, better than we had ever previously seen it, and we were sufficiently pleased with it to add it to our own collection. Rosy Gem was a nice scarlet feathered rose, something like Marshall's Miss Grace, and quite pure. Lady Clifton, which was grown so fine at the Coppice, a few years ago, and made quite a sensation, had the stamens slightly stained. One was flamed, and blue at the bottom of the beam. Duchess of Sutherland (Gibbons) was a fine feathered rose, Great Britain, a feathered bizarre, had stained stamens. Sir J. Paxton, a fine flamed bizarre, pure, good shape, and distinct from any other variety in cultivation. President (Hepworth) was new to us. It is a red flamed bizarre,

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perfectly pure, something in the way of Strong's King, as to colour and marking, and the cup rather too long.

At Risley, we inspected the bed of Mr. Wroughton, a new beginner, and, to show what energy and perseverance will do, we may state that he has, without any great outlay, got together, in about three years, a bed, containing as many good varieties as most in the county. They were scarcely in flower at the time of our visit. We saw, however, Mary Lamb, very beautiful light delicate feather. Victoria Regina, lightly feathered, ground colour perfectly white, and the tips of the petals free from the green patches that generally characterize this variety. Lorenzo was very fine, and the soil and situation seemed peculiarly to suit it. Emancipation, a new feathered byblœmen, raised by Disley, of London, is highly spoken of; and Gossipus, a new flamed bizarre, by the same raiser, is pure, and of pretty good shape, but we do not think it ever likely to take a high position as a variety for exhibition.

On Whit-Monday, we called on Mr. C. Spencer, of Thulston. In consequence of his bed having been damaged the previous year, not more, perhaps, than one-half were flowering, but amongst them were some nice clean well-marked flowers of the leading varieties. Mr. Godfrey, of Chellaston, grows his Tulips remarkably strong,—too strong, we think,—but we did not observe any thing new, and out of about two hundred Maids of Orleans, we did not see one that was good. Mr. J. Gibbons, the raiser of the Chellastons, had scarcely any thing but Princess Royal breeders. We saw, however, a nice feathered byblœmen, which he called Maid of Athens, and a good Sarah Ann.

On Whit-Tuesday, the Midland Tulip Exhibition (a detailed account of which will appear in the *Midland Florist*) was held in the Derby Arboretum, in connection with the Horticultural Society, and a first-rate show it was, and, unlike the National, the decisions of the judges gave entire satisfaction. Nine stands of sixes were placed, besides breeders, and amongst the



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former, Walker's Duchess of Sutherland was shown extra fine, by W. Worthington, Esq., of Newton's Park, who also showed Prince of the Netherlands, a very good bizarre, little known in the midlands. Mr. Orchard exhibited Polyphemus flamed, perfectly pure; it was, in fact, the premier flamed bizarre, which shows that this old variety does occasionally come free from any stains, In the first pan of breeders was a bizarre, the most beautiful we ever beheld,—stout petals, cup first-rate, and a large base, like "glittering gold." It was a seedling of Mr. Storer's, and on viewing his bed, that day, we failed to recognize the variety. However, he has many fine seedling breeders, all bizarres, raised from Pilot, a few years ago, but heavy rain coming on, we could not inspect them with the care we otherwise should have done.

On May 30, we acted as one of the judges, at a Tulip show, at Bramcote, near Nottingham, a great stronghold of Tulip growers, for the small manufacturing town of Stapleford, in the immediate neighbourhood, perhaps, contains its teens. The growers are principally mechanics, and the Tulips were mustered in great force. In the first pan of six, there was the most beautiful feathered rose we ever beheld. It was broke from Gibbons's No. 1 breeder, this season, and, as we purchased the root and offset, the Tulip growers named it Mrs. Allestree. We have heard it has been broken fine before, and did not come well afterwards. If it should prove the case with this, we expect never to "look on its like again." At the same show, First-rate was finely feathered and very beautiful. A feathered byblœmen, Mrs. Atkins, possessed considerable merit. The breeder was also shown fine. A flamed byblœmen, Wonderful, raised by Mr. Greasley, of Sandiacre, was good; as was also Mrs. Greasley, by the same raiser. Gibbons's No. 2 rose breeder, very good, and the breeder of Gibbons's No. 1, or Mrs. Allestree, was equal, if not superior, to any rose breeder we ever beheld; but, as we shall grow nearly all the new varieties exhibited at this show, we hope to report

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more fully, another season. One variety we wish particularly to name, and that was a feathered bizarre, the first in the class, and labelled unknown. It was exactly like a fine Magnum Bonum, but with a cup first-rate in shape. And now we must enter on a little digression. One lovely morning, in the latter end of May, five or six years ago, we went to see Mr. Abbott's bed, at Stanton, four miles from hence, and observed a distinct and beautifully feathered bizarre. We offered him five pounds for the root, and on adjourning to a neighbouring inn, we renewed the offer, or else a yearling calf, worth, perhaps, about the same money, and we well remember some gipsies, who happened to be present, staring with astonishment at so much being offered for a flower root. However, Abbott declined the offer, but promised we should have the first he parted with, and the gipsies said they were witnesses to the agreement, but before another year rolled round, these nomadic witnesses were far away. What took place was soon noised abroad, and the grand bizarre was called Abbott's Cow, and Abbott's Bull, until a little before the sailing of the Baltic fleet, when these vulgar and undignified names were dropped, and it was thenceforth to bear the name of Sir C. Napier, then in the zenith of his popularity. We have never grown it, and what Abbott has let out for it has been Sovereign. We have no doubt the one we saw at Bramcote was the identical sort we saw on Abbott's bed, years back. We purchased the root that produced the flower, and hope to be able to say more about it, when we have grown it a year in our own collection.

In bringing these long notes to a conclusion, we may just observe that we have bought, at a rather large price, nearly the whole stock of a feathered Pilot, or similar variety, but have not seen the flower. A correctly-feathered bizarre, with the shape and purity of Pilot, would be indeed an acquisition to the most choice collection.

T. ALLESTREE.

*Draycott.*

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# The Ranunculus.

THE leisure of autumn admits the indulgence of quiet retrospective thoughts on the season just past, and manifold are the reflections of the florist, on the good and ill luck attending his favourite pursuit. Among the many candidates for a place in the retrospect, I introduce the Ranunculus, and have to speak of its flowering season as successful, quite up to the average of years, and somewhat beyond it. The plants offered abundance of buds, and many had to be removed, to bring the number within the productive and maturing powers of the plant. The flowers were good in quality, but, owing to the forcing character of the season, were pushed rapidly to perfection: a slower development, under a lower temperature, would have conduced to an increase of their size. Shade and watering, this season, were essential, and saturating the paths with water, to keep down the temperature, was a useful expedient. The light-coloured varieties were very fine, and the markings distinct and good. Among the many that produced fine flowers in abundance, honourable mention may be made of Commodore Napier, John Joyce, Kilgour's Queen, Chevalier, Post Captain, Festus, Decorator, Archibald Johnston, Flaminius, Meekness, Imbert, California, Strephon, Gomer, &c.; and of the old *self-coloured* flowers, Apollo, Naxara, Sabina, Marquis of Hereford, Victor, and Melpomene distinguished themselves. A few new seedlings, of the edged class, were conspicuous for size and beauty, the vigour of their youth evincing itself over the more staid and moderate growth of their respected ancestors.

Just at the time of full bloom, the weather was unusually hot, and the skill of the florist was taxed to the utmost to retain and prolong the presence of his pet beauties. Some were extra capped, and wet moss was placed round the plants; some were cut and put over a tub of water, in a cool place, in which situation

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a Ranunculus bloom will often keep from seven to ten days, in tolerable perfection, if not exposed to much air, and provided the bottoms of the stems are occasionally cut off.

Little trouble the season gave as to maturing the roots. Showers often endanger their second growth, before complete rest is attained, but the almost changelessly dry season ripened the tubers, without risk, and they came up fine in quality, and with a moderate amount of care in airing and cleaning, were soon fit to be housed. Seed pods were numerously produced, but owing to the amount of sun, the pericarps were small, Many choice sorts, however, bore seed pods with good seed, and early in October is a suitable time to make use of a portion of it for a first sowing.

CAREY TYSO.

*Wallingford.*

## Notes of a Novice, on the Auricula.

I HAVE now grown Auriculas ever since last February!! having, by the way, about six plants, in the previous blooming season, and, as their history is fraught with many adventures, it might be to the advantage of many novices, who may be about to commence the cultivation of this beautiful little pet, to chronicle my experience, I say beautiful, for it is in reality, in or out of bloom, the loveliest ornament in Flora's garland.

In the early part of last year's volume of the *Midland Florist*, were some admirable remarks on the Auricula, by Mr. Cunninghame, an eminently enthusiastic amateur florist, and it was upon reading those remarks, with one or two others, from different sources, that I was led into the cultivation of this lovely flower. I wrote to Mr. Campbell, of Falkirk, for a few plants, which reached me safely, in a fine healthy state; these, with

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what I already had, making about two dozen plants, for a start: so off I went, right a-head, for an Auricula grower. However, I soon found out my mistake. Wedded, but no house for my wife, not a bit! I had a little three-feet frame, not one of the best, into which I *packed* my Auriculas nice and tight, looking "as snug as a bug in a rug!" but they did not like it, not a bit. They wondered, I dare say, what I knew about sanitary regulations,—such as pure air, ventilation, breathing room, &c; but, whether or no, I soon began to wonder myself, when I saw the poor things looking so ill, and, upon corresponding with friends Cunninghame, of Kilbarchan, and Campbell, of Falkirk, I soon found out that I wanted a *proper frame* in which to grow my favourites. Then followed plans and kind advice from the gentlemen before alluded to, and I succeeded, to some extent, in blooming my plants, last spring. I have now *a proper frame in which to grow and bloom* one hundred and twenty plants. It will be ready for use by the 1st of October, and I have ordered about thirty more distinct varieties, to make up my collection, to start with.

I, of course, say not a word about the cultivation of the Auricula, but as I, with some pleasure, understand there has been a greater demand for it, this autumn, than has been known for years, I will say just a word or two about the colours. The edges are all of them beautiful, the *orange* tube, with *bold* anthers, and the clear white paste, superb; but the ground,—the ground is, in nearly every instance, simply a shade of black,—reddish black, violet black, and black. This appears to be the sum total of the very point which, of all others, makes the flower attractive; or rather I should say, perhaps, the very point, of all others, necessary to make a collection attractive. Page's Champion is, as far as I am acquainted with them, the most attractive of them all, in this respect. Now, as we may infer, from what has been already said, that many new amateurs, like myself, are about to commence its cultivation, let us give them something to work for. Of

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course, like myself, they are making up their minds to hybridize, for seed, working for new varieties, and the question is, what shall they work for? Well then, I say,

1st. A *scarlet* ground to each edge, green, grey, and white.

2nd. A *Convolvulus blue* ground to a grey and white edge. It would not look much with green.

Now don't say it can't be done. Work for it, and see. I would'nt attempt to cross a black ground flower, we have enough of them, and very beautiful they are too; but by working for the colours I have mentioned, we should have many *new* and striking varieties to add to our already beautiful collections of "Bear's Ears!" Mr. Cunninghame sent me, last spring, a pip of a seedling he had raised, which quite delighted me. It was not scarlet, but it was *red,* a distinct dark *red,* with a most beautiful green edge, and tube through which you might indeed blow. Success to all Auricula growers!

A. J. CUMMINGS.

*Cheltenham.*

## The Redspider and Mildew on Grapes, &c.

IT has been repeatedly proved that the redspider cannot exist in heat and damp, but when either of them is relaxed, a few hours gives the enemy possession. Well then, heat and damp must eject him. But there is a vast difference between keeping an enemy out and turning him out when he has got possession. When the redspider or the mildew has got possession, neither of them will be affected so easily. They nestle in the leaves, and the damp and warmth that would prevent a lodgement are not sufficient to disturb them, and every hour strengthens the enemy and weakens the remedy. It is then necessary to dust the plants with sulphur, sprinkle some on the flues or pipes, and shut up close, keeping a moderate fire heat. After twenty-four hours confinement, the plants should be well

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syringed, the floors and pipes watered, and the house shut up a few hours more, to see if the plants are quite free. If not, repeat the dose. But there is a right and a wrong way to sulphur a plant. We have seen the gardener syringe his plants all over, before he dusted them, and the same with Grapes. Now sulphur swims on the surface of water, and wherever water can lodge, the sulphur cannot enter, therefore never syringe beforehand. Water the floor and the hot water pipes, and shut up till the steam has settled on every leaf and berry on the Vines, and every plant, like dew; then the sulphur dusted on them will stick in every part, and do its work. If, however, the first operation has not totally removed the enemy, let every thing dry first, then repeat the operation of first covering with dew, by means of watering the pipes and floors and shutting up close, next dusting them with sulphur and shutting up again, lastly, twenty-four hours after, syringing the sulphur off. From experience, we say the malady will be cured, but warmth and moisture must be kept up, to prevent the return of the double pest.

AN ENEMY TO MILDEW AND REDSPIDER.

## Physiology of the Tulip.

BY JOHN SLATER, FLORIST, CHEETHAM-HILL, NEAR MANCHESTER.

I HAD purposed making a few observations on the Tulip bulb growing without being put into the soil, and seeing Mr. Allestree's remarks, in the last number of the *Midland Florist*, I thought I would at once jot down a few things about it not generally known. The Tulip, taking all things into consideration, has many peculiarities, which few can account for. We sow seed from a breeder, and the produce all blooms in a rectified state: we sow again, from a rectified flower, and there are a few of each. Nature is here wrapt in mystery. How does it happen that

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such apparent inconsistencies occur? The Tulip breakers are at fault, and their nostrums at a discount, because no reliance can be placed on them.

Some years ago, I accidentally left a whole box of Tulips unplanted. They were of no great value, but judge my surprise, on discovering, when I wanted the box, that every blooming root had made a new bulb, and, in some instances, two or three offsets. This led me, ever since, to take an interest in endeavouring to account for this unusual habit. I know of no other bulbs that do the same; but whoever studies the physiology of the Tulip, will find that the bulb has four or five coats of skin. Those with four coats are non-bloomers, and those with five are blooming bulbs. The antiquated notion that the germ of the bloom is formed previous to taking up, is all nonsense. Examine a bulb in July, and nothing of the kind will be found, but continue the examination monthly, and it will be seen that a portion of the watery matter is absorbed by something, and that something is the germ of the new bulb and the embryo bloom of the following season. In September, and early in October, cut up a bulb carefully, and you will find the flower stem, the petals, and the anthers, all perfectly formed, but without colouring matter, and at the base, a small germ, not much larger than a large pin head. This germ absorbs the juices of the skin next to it, and grows apace with that nourishment, and having got all the nutriment from this skin, absorbs that from the next, and so on, gradually increasing in size, until a new bulb is formed, and that which was at the centre is now outside, fully matured for another season. This process goes on in boxes or bags, *but only in the blooming roots*, the offsets will all die. Thus it will be seen, that parties sending bulbs to any part of the world, may safely calculate, if large roots are sent, that they will be renewed on the passage, if they should not arrive at the proper season.

The natural conclusion from all this is, that the Tulip, dying annually, reproduces its like, and, whether in soil, bags, or boxes, Nature will have her own way;



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the only difference being, that not having derived any nourishment from foliage (for they neither make roots nor foliage, in boxes, that I can perceive), the bulbs are not so large as those grown in soil, but that they are quite as healthy I have, this season, again proved, with a few left unplanted, in bags.

## New Pansies.

THE following selection comprises the best of the many new Pansies let out in the autumn of 1857 and spring of 1858.

WHITE SELFS.

*Fanny* (Hooper).—Fine large solid eye. Distinct.
*Lady Grey* (Hooper).

DARK SELFS.

*Jeannie's Rival* (Shearer).—Extra fine.
*Sir Arthur* (Stenhouse).—Large, smooth, and very fine.
*Charles Macintosh* (D. & Laird).—Superb quality and full size.
*Optimum* (Robertson, Paul, & Co.)—The darkest of all the dark selfs. Fine.

YELLOW GROUNDS.

*Mrs. Hope* (Downie & Laird).—Ex. ex. quality.
*Rifleman* (Hall).—Extra fine.
*Robert Mason* (D. & Laird.)—Very bright, fine, and distinct.
*Ringleader* (Schofield).—Fine.
*General Young* (Hooper).—Extra fine. Early.
*Maud* (Campbell).—Extra large, smooth, and very distinct.

WHITE GROUNDS.

*Lady Mathison* (Downie & Laird).—Extra fine.
*Lizzie* (Macnab).—Scarcely distinct enough from Lady Mathison.
*Sir A. Allison* (R., P., & Co.).—Very fine.
*Lady Napier* (White & Sinclair).—Extra fine.
*Indispensable* (Schofield).—Very fine.
*Princess Royal* (Downie & Laird).—Ex. ex. fine.
*Delight* (Downie & Laird).—Extra fine.
*Mrs. Crossley* (Schofield).—Very fine.

Some fine sorts will be shortly forthcoming from Messrs. Downie & Laird. Also two from Mr. Auck-

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land, Chesterfield, viz., Mrs. Auckland, a decided beat on Royal Visit (D. & Co.), and John Walton, a fine yellow ground; from Mr. G. Sadler, Wedensfield, one white ground, Miss Caroline, and two very fine dark selfs; from myself, four, that I think will please any one.

There are no yellow selfs worth tolerating out this past season. Mr. Hooper has another "star," I am informed, but I have not seen it.

ROBERT R. OSWALD.

*Adderley Gardens, Birmingham.*

## Mushrooms, &c.

ON a former occasion, when writing to you upon the culture of Mushrooms, I said, if I was spared till autumn, I should make another attempt. The time having arrived, I take this opportunity of referring the amateur to the article in question (p. 160 of the present vol.), in hope that one or more may be led to try their hands at Mushroom growing. Those who cultivate Chrysanthemums, or, in fact, those who have a garden, will find the old Mushroom bed of great value to them; for how often do we make shift without manure, on account of the difficulty of getting it just at the time we want it, and often, for our kitchen garden, use green manure, which is of very little use, till the following year. Now the mechanic, or artizan, if you please, may often get together, in small quantities, sufficient for a good sized bed, and most people have a cellar, or can find some dark place, away from the frost. The difficulty I find is getting light places; dark ones are plentiful with me. The expense of the bed is next to nothing, the spawn about sixpence, and I am quite sure, with a little trouble, the principal of which is drying the manure and making the bed, a good profit may be got out of them. There is very little difficulty in finding cus-

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tomers for Mushrooms, in December, January, and February, and they will be all off before the manure is wanted for Celery, Cauliflowers, &c.; and where these are grown, the following year, you may expect a good crop of Onions, for I hold it to be the best plan to well manure the ground the season before you intend to crop it with Onions; and if you cover the surface soil, where your crop of Cauliflowers is growing, with an old Mushroom bed, and well SOAK it once with water, you will have a good show of heads, and the ground will be in good heart for Onions, the next year, after which try the Cabbage tribe.

A. F. A.

## The Cause of Decay in Asparagus Roots.

FREQUENTLY, on glancing over Asparagus beds, I noticed a great many failures, through the roots decaying, and thinking there must be something wrong in the management, I examined some plants, in the year 1854, when I was not long in detecting the cause of the failures. I found in the cavity of the stem, or stems, a great quantity of a gummy liquid, which led me to think that the plants were cut down too early, at the latter end of the year; for on cutting off the stems while in a growing state, they would bleed, and the sap would descend into the cavities, and in addition to this, they would receive a quantity of moisture from rain and the liquid from the saturated manure. The sap is of such a gummy nature that it seldom or never works off before the crown begins to start, in the ensuing spring. I have often noticed but an odd head or two come from a plant, in a season, which is caused by the decaying of the root, and that part of the root which bears the most robust stems is destroyed first, which is the cause of so many roots throwing up only a few weak laterals. I have found the best way to prevent this is to allow the

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stems to remain on the bed until they are dead ripe, then cut them to within twelve inches of the ground, and lay them down, taking care not to break them while top-dressing. By this method, the stem is closed and the moisture prevented from getting down to the crown of the root.

G. FREARSON.

*Ison Green.*

## My Greenhouse.

THIS is, perhaps, the most important period of the year for the greenhouse. All the plants that I turned out for the summer have grown larger, and one-half of them have been put into pots a size larger. What is to be done? Crowded they must not be, for that spoils all. I have none but really good subjects, I must not lessen the number of varieties, so there is no help for it, I must reduce the number of some of the sorts, and gain room that way. There is, however, a difficulty; I cannot spare Camellias, Azaleas, nor Cinerarias, for I have a great notion that they are the gayest families of all. Geraniums are great favourites, but I must be content with one of a sort, instead of several; but I must make an inventory of my various plants, for it will be a sort of guide to those who want to fill or properly furnish a greenhouse, and nothing is more important than a good choice of subjects. I ought to observe that my greenhouse is my conservatory also, otherwise some of my larger tenants ought to be classed with those fitted for a much finer establishment. For instance,

BRUGMANSIA KNIGHTII (fine double white), B. SANGUINEA (orange and red), B. LUTEA (golden yellow).—These being in full bloom, make a fine show, and seem just in a humour to flower all the winter, and very noble they look. B. Knightii is double, and the flowers are nearly a foot long. These are too large for a common greenhouse, for they would grow ten or fifteen feet high, if I did not lower them every now and then, by

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cutting them down, after blooming time. Then I have another family, equally ambitious, that requires similar treatment.

Abutilon Pictum Grandiflorum and A. Venosum.—These will, if cut down to the pot, grow ten or fifteen feet in a season, but nothing can be much more beautiful than they are in full bloom. The first is like the second magnified, the leaves have seven lobes, while those of the second have only five, but the flowers are the same colour as the second, and three times as large. These hang on footstalks, nearly twelve inches long, and are the size and form of a small wine glass, orange-coloured ground, with veins of blood red. Venosum is of a lighter shade, but like in form, and smaller every way. Both these will be in bloom all the winter. I should mention that Venosum having only five lobes is sufficient answer to those simpletons who have said that the plants are the same, but one grown finer than the other.

Hovea Celsi (purple), H. Ilicifolia (holly leaf, purple).—These are great favourites. The former is of large size, and the better for being spurred in, every year, after blooming. Each shoot is annually furnished with rich purple or dark blue flowers, of the pea form, clothing the upper half with more blossoms than leaves. H. ilicifolia is of the same character, so far as the flower is concerned, but the foliage like Holly, only smaller.

Nerium Oleander (white, double, and red, double).—Old-fashioned as these are, I think there are few plants to beat them, when kept in good health and of decent form, and this can only be done with extreme cleanliness and the free use of the knife, for they are inclined to run away into long awkward branches; and as all the flowers come at the ends of shoots, and each shoot will, with care, produce its truss, it follows that the more shoots we can get the more flowers will be developed. I prune my old plants back to a reasonable shape, directly the bloom is over, and before any new growth has commenced, so that they are in tolerable order. As a conservatory plant, where there is room to grow it like a tree, there is hardly its equal But there is no plant so easily damaged in the bloom; a draught of cold air, exposure to wind, any sudden check, sets the bloom buds, which, when once set, never open. No plant so much requires an even temperature, as it begins to show the buds. I have heard scores of people complain that the flowers do not open. I have stated the cause. Let the plant once stand still, after the buds have begun to swell, and there ends all chance of a good bloom; here and there a solitary flower may half open, but nothing like even a moderate flower can be perfected. These plants, therefore, from the time the buds appear, must be protected from cold, wet, and too much sun.

Pimelia Spectabilis.—White heads of flowers. I have discarded all the Pimelias but this. I threw out, this year, Pimelia decussata; it is every way inferior, although more

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robust, and there is such a choice of plants now, that I get dainty. Every shoot of P. spectabilis terminates with a bunch or truss of elegant flowers, so close to each other that they form, as it were, one. This plant requires stopping, when young, and checking, when old, to keep it in good form.

RHYNCOSPERMUM JASMINOIDES.—White. This is one of the best plants that has come out for years. It is a pretty climber, leaves glossy, blooms very abundant, in racimes, at the base of every leaf; flowers white, of Jasminelike form, very fragrant, and when well grown, there is not a prettier plant in the whole greenhouse range. It requires support, but mine is simple, I put sticks round the edge of the pot, and let the plant wind round and round, till the space is covered. Like other climbers, it wants directing as it grows, and must be kept clean. I have said nothing about soil, for I use one universal compost, and seldom add to it for any plants I grow, but of that hereafter.

STYPHELIA TUBIFLORA.—Crimson tube. I rarely see this plant about, although I know not any that better deserves a place. When it flowers, it is a mass of crimson, and lasts in bloom for months. I think much of it, because it is like nothing else. There is no substitute for it.

VERONICA ANDERSONII.—Blue and white. This is a great favourite. The blooms are like blue and white feathers, and come at the base of every leaf. The foliage is glossy and dark green, and the plant shrubby and handsome. It is now in profuse flower, and will remain so the whole autumn and the best part of the winter. It is said to be hardy, but the bloom suffers from frost, though the plant lives through it.

CORRŒAS.—Of these I have several varieties, of different colours, and their value is seen most in winter, for they bloom abundantly all through it. There are many names, but I have paid but little attention to that, because there are not more than half-a-dozen colours, light and dark rose, white, crimson, green, and orange colour. I do not allude to the species such as Alba, Rufa, Speciosa, Veridis, and Pulchella, but to varieties from them, with much larger flowers.

CAMELLIAS.—Here again I have a variety, and about a dozen good plants make a pretty diversity, for some are already bursting their bloom buds, and showing colour. My plants are, Alfida, or Halfida, rose; Double White; Bealii, crimson; Chandlerii, blood colour; Countess of Orkney, white, with crimson stripe; Drysdali, rose and white striped; Fordii, salmon rose; Gilesii red and white blotched; Prince Albert, carmine and blush white; Ochroleucre, cream colour; Lady Hume's Blush, blush white; Jacksonii, beautiful stripe scarlet. I have selected these at different times, for their beauty and contrast. They have been out of doors, in the shade, all the summer, and their buds are numerous and well swelled. I never miss setting them well for bloom, because I do not

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move them out of their house till they have made their growth and show the terminal bud, whereas many turn them out as soon as they have done flowering, and the new growth receives a check, and does not get completed.

AZALEA INDICA.—A dozen of these also are desirable in a mixed house, and I have selected good ones, in different colours. Admiration, white, striped with carmine; Alba magna, white, occasionally striped; Aurantia splendens (orange); Conqueror, or Lateritia formosa, orange scarlet; Broughtonii, salmon pink, spotted; Præstantissima, light orange red, spotted; Striata formosissima, white, flaked and spotted with purple; Symmetry, rosy salmon and crimson; Perryana, deep orange scarlet; Macrantha purpurea, purplish; Madame Miellez, white, striped with red; Bealii, vermillion, striped with white. In the season, these are the gayest things in the greenhouse. They have been out of doors till now, and are being placed in their winter quarters. But I am rapidly filling my shelves.

GERANIUMS come next, and I can only find room for a dozen of the best. Eclipse, Miss Costar, Eugene Duval, Symmetry, Mr. White, Vestal, Gem of the West, Conqueror, British Queen, Sanspareil, Flora, Emperor, and Matilda. I have just given these a shift, and stopped all the branches. A friend strongly recommended me to add a plant of the Double White, but on looking at it, in summer, I well remember it was worse than the one raised eight years ago, and thrown away. There is not one amongst the above that I would give up for the Double White.

ERICAS.—The same number, that is a dozen, comprises all the Heaths I have, and these are the most conspicuous for flowers, such as Aristata major and Macnabiana; Ventricosa alba, coccinea, grandiflora, and tricolor; Cavendishii, Depressa major, Vestita alba and coccinea, Picta, and Eximea superba. I do not say these are the best Heaths, but that they do best in a greenhouse, where there are other plants.

It is just the time of year that plants should be all housed, and I find that I have been obliged to leave many out, for want of room, but I have fairly housed all those I have mentioned, and have very little more room, which I expect I shall fill with Cinerarias, Calceolarias, and Primulas. I mix my greenhouse specimens, for the sake of effect. It is my conservatory, for I have no other, so that you will find me, by and by, putting in a few hardy things, for the benefit of their flowers, such as Jasminum nudiflorum, which blooms at Christmas, even out of doors.

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# The National Dahlia Show.

THIS exhibition was held at St. James's Hall, on the 23rd and 24th of September, and was not by any means crowded with visiters. The show was considered a good one, and the flowers generally fine, and a great number were staged. In class F, twelve blooms, we counted twenty-two pans. They filled three tables, running the whole length of the room, besides a cross one, at the bottom. The cross table at the top was filled with three nice boxes of Roses, backed by a row of Hollyhocks, in spikes, and boxes of the same, in single blooms, were sent by Messrs. Paul, of Cheshunt. A large vase, in the centre, in front of the orchestra, was filled with Dahlia flowers, cut with long stems and leaves, and looked very ornamental, drooping gracefully and carelessly over the sides, from the centre. There were two other groups, a chandelier and prince's feathers, but the prize was awarded to the vase, Mr. Turner. Mr. Bragg had a nice collection of German Asters. A great quantity of seedling Dahlias were exhibited, and a dozen or so were awarded prizes. The Dahlias in pots were not good, and looked as great a contrast to those cut as pots of fruit do to gathered fruit, on the same table. The following is a list of the prizes.

Class A, Fifty Distinct Varieties.—1. Mr. Charles Turner, Royal Nursery, Slough. 2. Mr. Keynes, Salisbury. 3. Mr. Drummond, Bath.

Class E, Twenty-four Blooms (for Amateurs).—1. Rev. C. Fellowes, Shottisham Rectory. 2. Mr. Holmes, Brook Lodge. 3. Mr. C. Perry, Castle Bromwich. 4. Mr. Grant, Shottisham Park. 5. Mr. Dodds, Salisbury. 6. J. Sladden, Esq., Ash, Sandwich.

Class B, Twenty-four Blooms (for Nurserymen).—1. Mr. C. Kimberley, Stoke, near Coventry. 2. Mr. Legge, Florist, Edmonton. 3. Mr. Bragg, Slough. 4. Mr. G. Sealey, St. George's, Bristol. 5. Mr. Walker, Nursery, Thame, Oxon. 6. Mr. George Edwards, York.

Class F, Twelve Blooms.—1. Mr. Bush, Swainswick, Bath. 2. Mr. Hopkins, Brentford. 3. Mr. Green, High Cross, Ware. 4. Mr. Lidgard, Hammersmith, Birmingham. 5. Mr. James, Slade End. 6. Mr. Pope, King's Road, Chelsea. 7. Mr. James, Stoke Newington. 8. Mr. Sladden, Ash, Sandwich.

Class G, Twelve Fancies.—1. Mr. Perry, Castle Bromwich. 2. Mr. Dodds, Salisbury. 3. Rev. C. Fellowes, Shottisham Rectory.



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Class H, Six Fancies.—1. Mr. James, Slade End, Birmingham. 2. Mr. Woodward, Stoke, Coventry. 3. Mr. Ansties, Brill. 4. Mr. Bush, Swainswick.

Class C, Twelve Fancies, tipped.—1. Mr. Turner. 2. Mr. Legge. 3. Mr. Keynes.

Class D, Fancies, tipped and spotted.—1. Mr. Turner. 2. Mr. Kimberley. 3. Mr. Keynes.

Class M, Twelve Best New Dahlias.—Five stands were exhibited, and a prize was awarded to Mr. Turner, for twelve superb blooms in this class, viz., Mrs. Church, Village Gem, Elizabeth, Commander, King, Marion, Standard Bearer, Miss Watts, Miss Pressley, Alice Downie, Loveliness, Peerless.

The following seedlings were awarded certificates:—Enchantress, Rev. C. Fellowes, Norwich, fine; Orb of Day, Mr. C. Turner; Chairman, Mr. C. Turner; Meteor, Mr. C. Turner; Conqueror, Mr. Cook, Notting Hill; Leonard, Mr. Wheeler, Warminster; Star of the North, Mr. Harrison, Darlington; Chancellor, Mr. Shenton; Chieftain, Mr. Bragg. We noticed a fine seedling from Mr. Chater, Saffron Walden.

M. BUSBY, F.H.S.

## Gladioli, Phloxes, and Roses.

NOTHING tends so much to the advancement of floriculture as the recommendation of good sterling varieties, *either old or new*. Having had an opportunity, this season, of seeing an exhibition, on the 21st of August, where there were collections of forty-eight varieties of Phloxes, I selected the following, with the intention of purchasing, at the proper period.

| | |
|---|---|
| Madame Celeste. | Souvenir de 29 Octobre. |
| Souvenir de ma Mere. | Macrophylla superba. |
| Madame Villaire. | Madame Annette de Lisle. |
| Monsieur Guldenchuch. | Eliza. |
| Madame Rendatler. | Madame Fontaine. |

GLADIOLI.

| | |
|---|---|
| Penelope, very extra. | Don John, extra. |
| Endymion, very extra. | Dr. Andre, extra. |

Courant fulgens, extra.

These were selected out of twelve varieties, and a more superb lot I never saw, and so much surpassing anything I could have imagined, that, believing them to be from abroad, I purpose having them, and forming a collection, planting them in November, in a bed pre-

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pared for the purpose, and then putting a frame round them, and covering with glass, until the end of April, after which period I think they will succeed. I have tried to grow them in the open border, but only succeeded with a few.

ROSES.

| | |
|---|---|
| Sombreuse. | Ville de St. Dennis. |
| Joseph Gourdon. | Madame Vidot. |

Vicomtesse Grande.

All these are Hybrid Perpetuals, and I understand are new.

JOHN SLATER.

*Cheetham Hill, near Manchester.*

# The Exhibitions of the Month.

NOTTINGHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.—The third and last exhibition for the season was held in the Exchange Hall, on Wednesday, Sept. 15, and we never saw a more splendid show at this late period of the year; the whole of the tables were literally crowded with the most beautiful flowers and the finest specimens of fruit ever exhibited in Nottingham. We give the awards for Dahlias.

Twenty-four Dissimilar Blooms.—1. Mr. R. Edwards, Empress, King, Mr. Turner, Midnight, Captain Ingram, Mrs. Wheeler, Pandora, Lady Popham, Cherub, Marquis of Aylesbury, Robert Bruce, Colonel Windham, Beauty of Slough, Sidney Herbert, Touchstone, Perfection, John Keynes, Yellow Beauty, Lord Cardigan, Richards's Seedling, Mrs. Edwards, Duchess of Kent, Lord Palmerston, and Sir F. Bathurst. 2. Mr. S. Taylor, Pre-eminent, La Defi, Miss Watts, Beauty of Slough, John Keynes, Edward, Comte de Chambord, Ada, Midnight, Mrs. Edwards, Lollipop, Saturus, Cossack, Queen of Whites, Princess, Lord Palmerston, Miss Caroline, Amazon, Pandora, Annie Salter, Duke of Wellington, Miss Coutts, Charles Perry, and Marion. 3. Mr. T. Dalton, Amazon, Agincourt, Beauty of Slough, Duke of Wellington, Edward, Empress, Lord Palmerston, Pandora, Lollipop, Lord Bath, Charles Perry, Miss Caroline, Mr. Seldon, Mrs. Wheeler, Pre-eminent, Rachael Rawlings, Sir F. Bathurst, Touchstone, John Keynes, Defiance, Comte de Chambord, Incomparable, Colonel Windham, and Miss Watts. 4. Mr. Shelton, Charles Kean, Magnet, Princess, Pandora, Charles Perry, Mr. Seldon, Omar Pacha, Touchstone, Cossack, Amazon, Climax, Fanny Dodds, Lord Palmerston, John Keynes, Yellow Beauty, Cherub, Beauty of Slough, Sir F. Bathurst, Lady Franklin, Triomphe de Pet, Fearless, Lord Cardigan, Lady Popham, and General Faucher.

Eighteen Dissimilar Blooms.—1. Mr. S. Dawson, Salvator Rosa, Incomparable, Magnificence, Amazon, Lord Palmerston, Lord Car-

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digan, Dr. Gully, Mr. Seldon, Beauty of Slough, Primrose Perfection, Magnet, Annie Salter, Yellow Beauty, Rachael Rawlings, Cossack, Empress, Touchstone, and Ada. 2. Mr. Dalton, Miss Caroline, Amazon, Touchstone, Ada, Empress, Annie Salter, Beauty of Slough, Agincourt, Defiance, Pandora, John Keynes, Rachael Rawlings, Incomparable, Cossack, Constancy, Mrs. Church, Lollipop, and Mr. Seldon. 3. Mr. Holmes, Miss Charlesworth, Pandora, George Glenny, General Faucher, Ada, Agincourt, Pre-eminent, Fearless, Cherub, Mrs. Edwards, Lollipop, Touchstone, Rachael Rawlings, Duke of Wellington, Lord Bath, Duchess of Kent, Beauty of Slough, and Lord Palmerston. 4. Mr. Charlesworth, of Chesterfield.

Twelve Dissimilar Blooms.—1. Mr. Morley, of Bulwell, Lollipop, seedling, Yellow Beauty, Pandora, Lord Palmerston, Lady Popham, Lord Cardigan, Amazon, Touchstone, Duchess of Devonshire, Mr. Seldon, and Colonel Windham. 2. Mr. Slack, of Chesterfield, Beauty of Slough, Lollipop, Touchstone, Amazon, Ada, Grand Sultan, Pandora, Admiral Dundas, Mrs. Edwards, Duke of Wellington, and Rachael Rawlings. 3. Mr. Charlesworth, of Chesterfield. 4. Mr. T. Straw. 5. Mr. Comery.

Six Dissimilar Blooms.—1. Mr. Dawson, Carlton Hill, John Keynes, Amazon, Empress, Pandora, Cossack, and Mr. Seldon. 2. Mr. Mosley, of Bulwell, Amazon, Mrs. Edwards, Pandora, Yellow Beauty, Lord Cardigan, and Colonel Windham. 3. Charles Dawson, Amazon, Magnet, Primrose Perfection, John Keynes, Mr. Seldon, and Pre-eminent. 4. Mr. Wright, of Chesterfield. 5. Mr. Edwards, of Mansfield.

Six Fancy Dahlias.—1. Mr. R. Edwards, Charlotte, Mrs. Hansard, La Defi, Conqueror, Carnation, and Lady Paxton. 2. Mr. S. Taylor. 3. Mr. Slack, of Chesterfield.

THE MIRFIELD HORTICULTURAL, FLORAL, AND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY held their annual exhibition of horticultural, floral, and agricultural produce in a spacious marquee, in the field of the executors of the late Mr. Charles Wooller, on Thursday, the 2nd ult. The village of Mirfield is one of the most picturesque and beautiful in the district, and an impetus has, of late years, been given to it by the formation of a railway, and another advantage possessed by this village over the greater number of its class is an abundance of clear water. The marquee in which the exhibition was held, was of a square form, open in the centre, and divided into two compartments, one for the gentlemen's gardeners and sale-growers, and the other for amateurs and cottagers. The area was occupied with the agricultural produce. The most remarkable feature of the exhibition was the first-class character of the amateurs' and cottagers' productions. Almost every cottager in the village has a plot of garden ground attached to his cottage, and gardening is practised as an art. No doubt this laudable pursuit originated through the extent to which gardening is carried on by most of the gentlemen in the district. The crops in this locality, both of fruit and vegetables, are abundant. In briefly noticing the specimens, we shall commence with the plants in the gentlemen's gardeners and sale-growers' class. At the end of the table was a healthy collection of Ferns, shown by Mr. W. Birch, gardener to T. Crooke, Esq., Dewsbury. These were followed by a fine collection of stove plants, by the Misses Walker. An Erica, shown by Mr. Birch, received an extra prize. A smart collection of six Liliums, by Mr. Birch, obtained the first and second prizes. About a dozen pretty Balsams were shown by Mrs. Fairburn, and E. B. W. Balme, Esq. A very large proportion of this table was occupied with Fuchsias, but

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there was an absence of those "tall trees" we have noticed at some exhibitions, this year. The number of Calceolarias was unusually limited, but they were more than made up for by the extra show in Cockscombs, of which some well developed plants were submitted. The prizes for Petunias were shared between the Misses Walker and Mr. T. Dennis. The white and scarlet Verbenas were much admired. A "Union Jack," the only one in this class, shown by Mr. Dennis, carried off the undisputed prize. A collection of Capsicums, in pod, was exhibited by the Misses Walker, and was unequalled. In Asters, Pansies, Marigolds, and Picotees, the show was not very large, but select. In Dahlias there was a good display. In reference to these cut blooms, this choice notice was introduced in the society's schedule, "That if any member try to impose upon this society, by extracting the eyes of Dahlias, colouring the disk, adding false centres, or painting the petals of flowers, if detected, he shall forfeit all prizes that he may be entitled to, and not be allowed to exhibit at any future meeting of this society." A pretty aquarium was exhibited by Miss Whiteley; within it were gold fish, and the outside was decorated with wreaths of flowers. A special prize was awarded this curiosity, by the judges. Turning to the fruits, our attention was called to two dishes of Peaches, shown by the Misses Walker and Mrs. Fairburn. A Pine, in bearing, attracted general attention, and had been brought from the hothouse of E. B. Wheatley Balme, Esq. Some fine Pears and Apples were shown, and about half-a-dozen dishes of Currants, of the three kinds, black, white, and red. Several bunches of Grapes were entered by the Misses Walker, who carried off the first prize. In vegetables, prizes were awarded to five trays, which contained one brace of Cauliflowers, two heads of red Celery, six red Carrots, six Onions, six Kidney Potatoes, not less than fifty nor more than sixty pods of Peas, and one brace of Cucumbers. The successful competitors were respectively, G. Liversidge, B. Dawson, J. Berry, W. Birch, and W. Copley. In Cabbages there was a good display, also in Potatoes and Turnips. A Gourd, weighing some thirty pounds, was shown, and some fine Cucumbers. The French Beans and some Scarlet Runners brought to an end the produce in this class worthy of particular notice. The amateurs' and cottage gardeners' class was most creditable. In some specimens, as Fuchsias, Liliums, and Cucumbers, the show was superior to the first-class exhibiters. To go over the whole of the articles would be little more than a mere repetition of what we have already said. The principal competitors were Messrs. J. Jackson, T. Berry, S. Hartley, E. Rushforth, J. Firth, W. Cudworth, J. Crabtree, J. Brown, F. Dawson, J. Sykes, and A. Holdsworth. A miniature garden was shown, and within it a model of Marriott's Hall, an Elizabethan structure, at Hopton. A design in flowers, somewhat resembling a Chinese pagoda, was shown by Mr. J. Manchester. Four prizes were given in this class for trays of vegetables, consisting of six round Potatoes, six red Carrots, six Onions, fifty pods of Peas, two sticks of Celery, and one red Cabbage. The winners were Messrs. J. Gill, J. Netherwood, J. Sheard, and E. Rushforth. The specimens in agricultural produce were not numerous, but they were worthy of being shown. There was a falling off this year in the show of poultry, which was mainly attributable to an accident having happened to the stock of Mr. Dixon, of Bradford. The cart bringing these specimens had been overturned on the way to the show, and many of the birds killed. The brilliancy of the show was greatly interfered with by several heavy showers, which fell during the afternoon.



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# Our Miscellany.

PINK.—BARKER'S JOHN O'GAUNT.—This fine variety was raised by Mr. Edward Barker, of Newcastle-under-Lyme, and sold out by subscription, in 1856. It is, without exception, the finest purple-laced Pink that has ever been introduced to the northern growers, being a decided improvement on all the best purple-laced varieties now in cultivation. It has a perfectly smooth-edged petal, of the finest form; very dark purple lacing, nearly black, and very evenly laid on, and the eye of a corresponding colour; white beautifully clear, and the flower of the best form. There is not the least doubt that, when more in cultivation, it will stand very prominent, for many years to come.—R. M.

ACHIMENES METEOR (Turner), a most splendid scarlet flower, with petals thick and fleshy, one of the finest Achimenes ever raised, was exhibited by Mr. Cole, at Didsbury, near Manchester, a few weeks since, and pronounced by all to be first-rate.—J. SLATER.

THE SPADE AND THE FORK.—As digging and stirring the soil is the most laborious and the most indispensable operation in horticulture, it is highly important to inquire by what tool it is best accomplished. The spade is almost universally used, so much so indeed, that the fork has generally a specific name, as though it were only fit for one department of labour. It is generally called the "Potato fork," because it is employed in unearthing that root, and in many gardens this is its sole occupation. I am aware that much has been said, at various times, on the superiority of the fork to the spade, for general purposes, but the advice is seldom followed. The spade has always been used on my own premises, until the last winter, and no man who has worked for me has ever said, "Sir, will it not be better to use the fork?" But having occasion to dig myself, last autumn, I used the fork, and was so amazed at the

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ease and rapidity with which the work was done, that I have never since allowed a spade to be used, when the former instrument is available. A moment's thought will point out in what the superiority consists. The friction is only one-half that produced by the spade, and stones present, comparatively, no obstacle. A sandy soil, of course, could not be worked by the fork, but light grounds may. Another advantage is the lightness communicated to the soil, when it is forked up. The fork, indeed, gives the land a subsoil ploughing, if the prongs are long enough. Let the amateur make the experiment himself, and I am sure he will seldom afterwards use the spade. Having found out this easier and more effectual mode of digging my own land, I have been anxious to communicate my experience to others, especially to the labourer, whose back-aching occupation will be much relieved by the use of the fork. But, alas! how difficult it is to do men good, if old habits and prejudices are in the way! Walking out, one evening, I passed a cottager's garden, the owner of which was laboriously cutting out cubes of his stiff soil, with a spade. "Do you ever try the fork?" I asked, and informed the man how much more easily the ground was worked by it. The answer was, "No, Sir, I do not like the fork; it does not clean the ground like a spade." I attempted to reason, but found the effort vain, and all that I could get the digger to say was, that a fork would not clean the ground like a spade! If by cleaning is meant the eradicating of roots of weeds, it is in this particular the fork possesses peculiar excellence.—*Amateur Gardener.*

## Opinions on Flowers, &c.

PANSY.—Yellow, with dark marone markings. It is of a good form and striking, but owing to the blooms being rather withered, we cannot say anything as to stoutness of petal. If these are satisfactory, a very nice variety.

SEEDLING VERBENAS.—G. FREARSON, *Ison Green.*—No. 1. *Mrs. Frearson,* bright cerise, large lemon eye, first-rate variety, quite distinct. No. 2. Blue, with large white eye, in the style

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of Standard Bearer, good. No. 3. Purple, with large white eye, large truss, and eye well defined, the best of its class. No. 4. Colour of Sir Joseph Paxton, but much better than that variety, large truss, and large lemon eye. No. 5. Dark purple, very large truss, large white eye, distinct. No. 6. Soft rose, large truss and eye, distinct. No. 7. Blush white, with large lake centre. No. 8. Scarlet crimson, white eye, good. No. 9. Crimson, with white eye, large truss. No. 10. Fine rosy crimson, large truss, distinct and good. No. 12. Rosy lilac, very large truss, with large white eye. No. 15. *Mrs. Wheeler*, beautiful rose, colour of Rosy Gem, with large white round eye, deep truss, putting all the rose-coloured Verbenas we have seen into the shade.

## Notes and Queries.

MR. EDITOR, I am a subscriber to your *Midland Florist*, and you have led me to grow Tulips. I bought a very nice little lot and set them as directed, and after they came up I duly covered them with an awning, but, notwithstanding, they were not clean; that is, the pollen had fallen to the bottom of the cup, and the dust had also got into them. Now can Mr. Allestree, whose notes I greatly approve, give directions as to how florists who grow for exhibition get their blooms so clean. I should have shown, last season, but dare not. I have a very nice bed, of forty rows, all good varieties, and some of them the very best in cultivation; but the dust, the dust—it spoils my flowers. They were splendid in shape and as pure as they could be, but I dare not meddle, being an inexperienced hand.—A LADY TULIP GROWER.

I should feel much obliged if you, or any of your readers, could furnish me with a list of twelve Gladioli, named varieties, stating colour, &c.—GOLD DIGGER.

## Calendar of Operations.

AZALEAS.—By this time, most of the specimen plants will have been securely housed, and if my directions have been properly attended to, the house will be as clean and neat as it is possible to make it. Give plenty of air, day and night, to those that are wanted to bloom in spring and early summer. See last month's calendar respecting those to flower at Christmas. Let none suffer for want of water. If thrip infest them, fumigate freely with tobacco.—E. CLEETON, *gardener to E. Holland, Esq., M.P., Dumbleton.*

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CARNATIONS AND PICOTEES.—Finish potting, without delay, and should any of the plants not be rooted, place them in gentle heat, if at hand; if not, put them under a hand-glass, after watering freely, and cover up close, for a fortnight, when, generally, all will have rooted, after which, place them in a cold frame. Let them have all the air possible, when the weather is favourable, and do not cover them too much, or probably the fly will get in them, and then they will require fumigating with tobacco paper.—JOHN SLATER, *Cheetham Hill, Manchester.*

CHRYSANTHEMUMS.—The large specimens, intended for exhibition, are nearly all showing their flower buds, and no laterals should be allowed to grow, to rob the bloom buds; also take off all but the best and most promising one that grows out by the side. Give plenty of liquid manure, every day, till they show colour. Sprinkle the foliage, when dry, if not too cold. Night and morning, look for the earwigs, and place near the top of each plant a Bean stalk, or some other trap, and destroy them by emptying the traps into a pan of water. Tie up the plants carefully, to prevent them from breaking off the buds. If the flowers do not expand freely, ease the petals a little, but be careful not to bruise them. A sharp pointed stick, made round, and just the tip of the point cut off, will do for this purpose. Syringe under the leaves, if you can, as well as on the top. Open out those on the open borders, and give them plenty of room, and secure them firmly to the stakes, with new bast, well twisted; the winds are sure soon to be very troublesome. If Pompones are planted in beds, give them one more peg down, and let it be the last. They are all showing bloom. Those that are not pegged down should have a short stick put to them, to prevent them being twisted off by the wind. Where they are throwing up many suckers take them off, or they will rob the bloom. These suckers, if put seven or eight in a forty-eight-sized pot, will furnish a stock for next year. The majority of my plants are a week earlier than they were last year, therefore, if you have any shows, do not be quite so late as last season. Those who intend covering, should have their frame fixed, to be ready, in case of frost. Keep them uncovered as long as you can, or till they show colour, when they must be kept in the shade. I see no account of any shows in the midland counties; we have nine in town, and for years I never saw such healthy plants. Some of the Pompones, in eight-inch pots, are more than four feet across, and eight inches high, with from three to four hundred shoots. They are watered with liquid manure, twice a day. Some of the large varieties, in eleven-inch pots, are equally good. They should now be put in a shady place, out of the wind, and have plenty of water. Do not throw away a drop of the chamber slop; it so excites them, and that is what they want just now.—S. BROOME, F.H.S., *Temple Gardens.*

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CINERARIAS.—These will now be making rapid growth, and must be kept growing, by occasional shifts. If allowed to get pot-bound, before their final repotting, much of the foliage will be lost. Early plants may be at once repotted into their blooming pots, using a rich soil, consisting of three-fourths good friable loam, and one-fourth cow dung, in a well-decomposed state, and silver sand. They will require to be near the glass, but not exposed to the sun, and must have plenty of air. The Cineraria delights in a light situation, with plenty of air, but not in the sun's rays. Of course, avoid cold draughts. Mildew and greenfly will require constant watching. I have black sulphur always at hand, for the former, and tobacco paper, for the latter. Remove fogged leaves, as soon as observed. Stop back those required to flower late, and continue to stop and peg them out, as often as required. Plants that are ready to stop back, if kept growing, will make large bushes by the month of April.—J. DOBSON, *Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth.*

DAHLIAS.—As the season of this noble flower is about to close, it will be advisable to make some preparation for the future. Every night we may expect frost, therefore protect the crowns by drawing the soil about six or eight inches up the stems, when no moderate frost will injure them. If the weather should prove mild, the bloom may be prolonged by taking off every shoot that is not showing bloom buds, which will throw all the support into the flowers, and not only cause them to bloom better, but also increase their size. If these young shoots are allowed to remain, there will be plenty of wood, but only a few small flowers. When the foliage is taken by frost, do not let the roots remain in the ground more than a fortnight, or the crowns will soon commence growth, which would prove injurious. As you take up the roots, place them to dry, and turn them upside down, to drain out the moisture, which, if allowed to remain, will often cause them to decay. Many sorts, which were scarce in spring, and have been propagated strong, will, no doubt, have made but very small tubers, and therefore require some care to preserve them through the winter. Let these roots be put into pots, filled with dry soil, and placed in a cold dry place, safe from frost and moisture.—RICHARD EDWARDS, *Nuthall.*

EPACRISES.—If not already done, house the plants, without delay. Place them where they can have the full benefit of the sun, and a free circulation of air, day and night, when the weather is favourable; but the temperature of the house should not be allowed to fall below forty degrees, Let them have a thorough examination, as respects draining, surfacing, staking, tying, the encroachments of worms, &c.—EDWARD CLEETON, *gardener to E. Holland, Esq., M.P., Dumbleton.*

FORCING DEPARTMENT.—Look over the directions for last month. Now is the proper time, if it is not already done, to

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get the forcing houses thoroughly cleaned, and, if needed, painted inside and out. Look to the heating apparatus, and see there is no leakage in the boiler or pipes. Have all the flues cleared of soot, and the walls washed with lime and sulphur, adding size, to give it substance and prevent its being washed off with the syringe.——*Late Vinery.*—Go over the bunches, every morning, clipping out all berries that are spotted. Keep the house nicely aired, and thoroughly dry and clean.——*Peach House.*—The trees here will be divested of their leaves. Keep the lights still off, exposing the plants to the full influence of the atmosphere.——*Fig House.*—If the fruit has been gathered, throw open the house, or should the plants be in pots and the house wanted, remove them to a sheltered situation, out of doors.—M. Busby, F.H.S.

Fruit Garden.—As soon as the leaves of Peach trees are sufficiently ripe to come off at a touch, clear the trees and unnail them, to get the wood ripe and hardened. Clear all runners from Strawberry beds, stir the surface with a fork, and give a good coating of well-rotted manure. Clear the old canes from Raspberries. Planting fruit trees may be commenced any time this month.—Wm. Shipley, *Westbury, Wilts.*

Fuchsias.—The beauty of these plants will be nearly over, and such as have done flowering, should be placed in their winter quarters, previously to which, see that every plant is rightly named. The situation selected should be moderately dry. Cuttings put in last month, if rooted, may be potted off, and kept gently growing. These will make very fine plants, in June. If any plants out-of-doors are required to be saved, take them up at once, and pot them; or they may be protected by placing a layer of ashes, three or four inches deep, over the plants. In cutting them down leave the stems about two inches long.—John Dobson, *Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth.*

Heathery.—Here, the sooner every thing is comfortably placed under glass, for the winter, the better it will be for the plants. In arranging the specimens, give the delicate-growing ones the warmest end of the house. Let every plant be brought in thoroughly clean and neatly tied up. Look carefully after mildew, and if discernible, dust well with sulphur. Give abundance of air, day and night, so long as there is no frost, and see that none suffer for want of water.—Edward Cleeton, *gardener to E. Holland, Esq., M.P., Dumbleton.*

Kitchen Garden.—Plant out Cabbage plants. Prick out Lettuce, to stand the winter. On heavy soils, the ground may be ridged up, and the plants set on the south side. Plant Cauliflowers, under hand-glasses and in frames; but do not put the glasses on at present, unless the weather is wet. Continue to earth up Celery, and tie up Endive. Make up Mushroom beds, for winter cutting.—William Shipley, *Westbury, Wilts.*

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PANSIES.—By the end of the month, every plant should be in its winter quarters. If intended to be grown out-of-doors, beds should be made up for them, early in the month. Those that are to be grown in pots should be at once potted up. Give abundance of air, on fine days. Slugs, in and out-of-doors, must be constantly looked after. Decayed foliage must be picked off, and if mildew is observed, a little sulphur should be applied.—JOHN DOBSON, *Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth.*

PELARGONIUMS.—The general stock of plants, as well as those for exhibition, will require to be looked over, that repotting, where required, may be done early in the month. Those for exhibition at the early shows, must be put into their blooming pots. The soil most suitable for them is a good turfy loam, three-fourths, and well-decomposed cow-dung, the older the better, with silver sand, one-fourth. The mould should be moderately dry and easily worked, and must be chopped over with a trowel, but not sifted, picking out all the stones. For drainage, use oyster shells, with about an inch of broken crocks, over which a little dried moss should be spread. This maintains a good drainage, which is very essential to the well-being of the plants. Water must be carefully given, throughout the winter. If the weather is damp, a little fire heat will be beneficial, just to dry up the moisture, which will prevent the leaves fogging off. Young plants requiring a shift, should have it at once. Fumigate occasionally, and stop back any young plants that may be growing rapidly.—JOHN DOBSON, *Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth.*

POMPONE CHRYSANTHEMUMS.—Having made preparation for housing, as directed last month, the plants may now be carefully taken up. Wash the pots, attend to the drainage, and support the plants as you best can. Syringe well, both above and underneath, until they show colour. Place the plants as near the glass as possible, not forgetting, however, that the light-coloured varieties must, upon showing bloom, be five or six inches further from the glass than the darker sorts, otherwise they throw up a tint of colour before the flower is fully expanded. Fumigating with tobacco will be found beneficial, where convenient; if not convenient, half-an-ounce of tobacco, tied in a muslin bag, and soaked in a pail of water for twelve hours, and the water applied with the syringe, over head, will suffice. The plants, though housed, should not be constantly under glass, and if the grower has not the command of moveable lights, they will be better out for ten days or a fortnight longer. Those who have moveable lights, should house, and give all the air possible, during the day, and at night also, when mild and dewy, as the dews swell up the buds. If the nights are dry and windy, syringe the house, as well as the plants, and shut up close, which will much assist the swelling of the buds.—JAMES HOLLAND, *gardener to R. W. Peake, Esq., Hounslow.*

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NOVEMBER.

# Jottings from an Amateur's Note Book.

No. II.

THE summer of 1858 will long be held in remembrance for its continued sunshine. No season since 1846 can be compared with it, and, in many respects, 1858 is superior to that year. The period of blooming, of most flowers, has been anticipated, and, where the requisite attention to watering was given, the fine quality of bloom well repaid the trouble, and afforded the amateur a good opportunity of testing the merits of old and new favourites. Dahlias and Verbenas are still fine, and, in the absence of frost, will continue so for another fortnight. Among the newer Dahlias, Cherub is a most charming flower; perfection in shape, novel colour, and the cut and come again qualities of this variety, constitute it A 1 in its class. The colour is a golden orange, and is very attractive. Midnight is a singularly fine Dahlia, of a dark purple shade of colour, fine, deep, and symmetrical, and will stand its ground well. Touchstone is well entitled to its name, up in the centre, bold outline, and very constant; it claims a place in every good selection. It is an improved Mrs. Seldon. Mrs. Edwards, clear lilac rose, of fine proportions, well-arranged petals, and all right in the centre, is sure to please from its refined delicacy of



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colour. Royal Scarlet is a noble variety, and will remain A 1 in its class, for some time to come. Duke of Devonshire, a fine lilac flower, shaded with white at the base of the petals, is a good show sort, and well worth growing. Duchess of Beaufort, blush white, clouded with dense purple, is a decided novelty, and has many good properties to recommend it. Lady Popham, a fine blush-coloured variety, is of first-rate symmetry, and very attractive. Roland, white, tipped with purple, is also good. Harbinger, Lady Franklin, and Saturn must also be included in my list as standard varieties. Mr. Turner, of Slough, recommended the above-mentioned flowers, as the best Dahlias sent out in 1857. I have grown them, and am happy to bring them under the notice of my brother amateurs, as many of the varieties are an advance in the right direction, and well worth cultivation. No cut flower pleases the florist's eyes so well as a good Dahlia. Cut blooms of Hollyhocks have no chance, when brought into contrast. But, as an ornamental plant, the stately Hollyhock is a much gayer object; so that both have their rival claims to our regard. The refined finish, so well shown in the Dahlia, realizes to the florist what constitutes the beau-ideal of a perfect flower, and well entitles her to the proud designation of the Queen of Autumn. Another favourite is the Verbena, and, certainly, within the last few years, no flower has made more rapid improvement. I shall not easily forget how delighted I was, two years ago, at the Caledonian Society's Hollyhock and Dahlia Show, in Edinburgh, to see Verbenas Geant des Batailles, Mrs. Halford, Queen of the Amazons, and several others of the new breed. Geant is now grown as a bedder, over the length and breadth of the land, and requires no further eulogy than simply to state, that it is the best crimson bedder out, and will probably remain so for some time to come. Its trusses are superb, and its style of growth everything that could be desired. Prince of Wales, rosy red, with yellow centre, is evidently of the same

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strain as the last-mentioned. The individual florets are as large, and the style of growth is something similar. The Prince is a first-rate pot plant, and is the best for show, next to Geant, that I have grown. Venus, blush white, with crimson centre, is a sweet, delicate flower; the colour is symmetrically laid on round the centre, which gives a high finish to the individual pips; the truss is good, and it is seen to greatest perfection under glass. Mrs. Beecher Stowe is much in the same style, the pips larger, but the crimson centre is all to one side, which gives Venus a point in advance. Cupid, fine rosy lilac, with primrose centre, is beautifully round, and free from indentation. It makes a fine pot plant, and is very attractive. Rosy Gem is new in shade of colour, and is said to be a first-rate bedder. It is a distinct flower, and sure to give satisfaction. Under glass it is a formidable sort for exhibition. Magnet is a very handsome variety, well centred and free from indentation; it does not stand the weather well, but makes a fine pot plant. Optima and Brightonia are excellent varieties. Lady Palmerston is an improved sort. Standard-bearer, blue purple, with white centre, which is circular, is a telling Verbena for competition. The above-mentioned varieties are well worth growing, and are recommended, after being proved. Another florist's favourite that has been steadily improving is the Pansy, which may truly be styled the poor man's flower. In the north, it is carefully cultivated by many who would not grow any other florist's flower. The Scottish Pansy Society has offered great inducements to growers to improve the breed, and a new variety, to hold its own at the society's meetings, requires to beat every other flower, in its class, in the room. This is a good rule, as many good show varieties may be staged as seedlings which are no better than existing varieties. Mary Lamb is the new white ground which was shown at the Scottish Society's meeting, at Glasgow, in June, and is to eclipse everything out. The raiser of Jeannie may certainly be proud

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if he has succeeded in raising a flower to beat Countess of Rosslyn and Una., A dark self, raised in Glasgow, is also to come out in the spring. I have seen a bloom, and if it always comes like that bloom, it is better than anything out. Mr. Douglas, Rosebank, Edinburgh, sends out both these seedlings, and they are worth inquiring after. Mrs. Hope maintained her position as queen of the yellow-ground class, at the Society's meeting, at Glasgow, and deservedly; as a show sort, she is unrivalled. Cyrus, in his best dress, is a noble flower, but the belting does not always meet. Mr. Downie has a number of new varieties, to come out in the spring; among others, a white self, which is to supply a desideratum long felt. Several new yellow selfs, improvements on existing varieties, will also be sent out, so that we have every prospect of seeing a steady advance in the Pansy, at the Society's meeting, next season.

C. S.

*Berwickshire, N.B., Oct.* 13, 1858.

## Culture of the Hardy Heaths.

THE culture of the hardy Heaths may be assimilated with that of what are generally called American plants, for, like these, they thrive best in a soil composed chiefly of heath-earth, and, if they are situated in a position where their soil will be kept cool and moist during the summer, without being subjected to excess of wet in the winter, their success will be the more certain and complete. These two features may be regarded as the leading principles of their cultivation. Wherever a bed of peat earth exists, there the Heaths may be introduced, and, if the situation is generally suitable for plants of this particular class, the Heaths will also flourish. Generally speaking, their small size particularly adapts them to such situations as

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the margin of large clumps where a miscellaneous collection is planted, and, indeed, from the smallness and particular character of their foliage, they require to be brought forward, or they become overpowered by the broad and ample leaves of such shrubs as the Rhododendron. Where, however, the space can be afforded, they are better planted in a group, by themselves; and an extension of the same principle, so far as to plant each kind in a bed by itself, where there is room, will, on the whole, be found to be the most pleasing. When collected together in groups, whether it be of individual kinds or in a miscellaneous collection, they appear to harmonise better than when mixed with other shrubs; their needle-like foliage does not by any means accord with the broader and more expansive leaves which most other shrubs possess. An assemblage of the hardy kinds of Heaths, separate from any other plants, constitutes an hardy Ericetum, or Heathery. When the different kinds are brought together, within the scope of one bed, or clump, they form a hardy Ericetum on a very limited scale; but when a greater number of small beds are brought together, each being filled with a particular kind only, a hardy Ericetum on a large scale is constituted, and it will be found to be a very interesting and ornamental appendage to a pleasure ground. The hardy Heaths are most readily propagated by layers, which make the best plants within a limited period, although cuttings root freely enough, with careful management. If the young branches are brought down, and covered to within a few inches of their tops, with about an inch in thickness of the soil, kept firm and moist, they will readily become rooted plants in a few months, and may then be taken off, and transplanted to where they may be required. Either the spring or the autumn is the most eligible time for doing this; in the former case, they are best taken off early in the autumn; and in the latter, during the spring months. There is one purpose to which a reserve stock of the winter-flowering hardy Heaths may be appropriated with every advantage, and that is, the decoration



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of the sitting-room, the conservatory, or the greenhouse. Gypsocallis carnea, especially, will continue in bloom nearly all the winter, and at that period flowers of any kind, except forced ones, are very scarce. A few small, neat, bushy plants, taken up, and carefully placed in pots, just before severe frost comes on, and then set in any sheltered corner, or in a cold frame, will come in about the usual season. If required, their blooming could be accelerated a month or so, by taking them up earlier, and keeping them under shelter. What is now referred to is very different from forcing; in fact, the ordinary period of their blooming out of doors—December and January—is the very time when they would be most useful for in-door decoration, because it is just the time of the greatest dearth of flowers. From the peculiar manner of their rooting, namely, in close, dense masses (technically called balls) of fine fibres, they are very easily removed and potted, without sustaining any injury from the operation. Plants so treated should be planted out again in the reserve ground early in the spring, in order to make a new growth, and prepare themselves for a similar process in the following season.

JOHN THOMPSON.

*St. Lawrence, Jersey.*

## Continuous Roses, and a Few First-rates.

I HAVE read, in your February number, for this year, Mr. Appleby's list of Continuous Roses. The following are such. *Noisette*—Triomphe de la Duchere, Aimee Vibert. *China*—Eugene Beauharnais. *Hybrid Perpetuals*—Dr. Arnul; Triomphe de l'Exposition, good in every respect, and will long remain in public favour; Gloire de la France, one of the Geant's most beautiful children; Maxime, Madame Cambaceres, both fine in bud, foliage, and wood;

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Monsieur Ravel, dazzling scarlet, fine substance, fine foliage, and good wood; it has bloomed three times, planted in March. *Bourbons*—Paxton, good habit, fine colour, and free and constant bloomer; Comte de Montijo, dark velvety violet purple crimson, medium size, of good substance, and a free bloomer, with good wood, has given three crops, planted in March.

There is nothing bad about any one of the above Roses, on the Dog Brier. The two Noisettes and Arnul have never been without a flower, from the beginning of the season, and they are now (the 12th of October) in bloom, or full of buds. These three Roses not only bloom continuously, but cast good wood at the same time.

The following are good, without special reference to continuity. Rebecca, I think, is the best Rose I know, for substance and quality of petal. The petals of Ravel are very close and thick. Triomphe de l'Exposition is a most lovely and desirable Rose. La Ville de St. Denis is the best Rose in the line of rose colour. It opens freely, its petals are deep, round, smooth, thick, and beautifully folded to the centre. It is of the date of 1855. It is better than Peronny or La Reine. La Fontaine, in the same colour, is a very charming Rose, but not so thick in petal. Rebecca, on Manetti, has given one series only, but two very beautiful Roses. Ravel has given a third series, and all the others two. Gloire de Dijon has just given a third and fine series. It is in an exposed place, on a two-feet Dog Brier. The two Globes, which I cut on Monday, the 11th of October, were fine, and of an orange cream colour.

I have three phenomena here. A Keen's Seedling, in full berry; a second series on a summer Rose, which, I think, must be Felicite Parmentier, it is a standard, made from a bush; and a beautiful late lingering bloom of H.C. Lady Stuart, a lovely silvery blush. I have just cut it and other Roses for Captain Wyndham, of West Lodge.

W. F. RADCLYFFE,
RECTOR OF RUSHTON.

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# Treatment of Bulbs:

## HYACINTHS.

FOR the growth of Hyacinths in pots, prepare one-half decomposed friable turfy loam, with the remainder equal parts of well-rotted manure, leaf mould, and river sand, well incorporated together, and should, when so prepared, be used in a tolerably dry state (free from adhesiveness), so as to admit of a firm pressure without injury. The most favourable season for planting is September, and onwards. The size of pots is regulated by the space or convenience for placing them; where limited, and a rich massive effect is wished for, those of six or eight inches diameter are recommended, in which three or four bulbs may be placed, but where more convenience is had, a succession of single or double bulbs, in smaller pots, may be admitted—two bulbs in each is very effective, and generally preferred; the colours of such may be regulated according to taste. In potting, each bulb should remain two-thirds above the surface of the soil, and the base of each bulb should rest upon a strata of clean river sand, at about three-quarters of an inch lower than the rim of each pot, to admit of a judiciously-regulated amount of water during the season of bloom. After potting, place them where they are intended to remain, upon a dry surface of ashes or sharp gravel, in the rotation of their intended periods of bloom (each later potting plunged beyond the previous one), and, thus arranged, water the whole well, to imbed the bulbs firmly within the soil, allowing them to remain until the bulbs and surfaces are again dry (for one or two days); then cover the whole over, to the depth of six or eight inches, with half-dried tan or pure leaf mould, for six or eight weeks, in which position the preparatory root-growth is made, necessary to a vigorous development of their flower-scapes. After the period adverted to, less or more, the first-potted bulbs may be taken up, the soil and sediment

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carefully brushed off, and removed to a gentle hotbed, or a warm, genial greenhouse, or forcing pit, where, by the aid of a slight root-temperature, the bloom will progressively expand, care being taken to screen the leaf-growth, made in darkness, for a few days after being disimbedded. When an unusually warm spring requires that the covering of tan or soil should be removed from the general stock, the various batches or pottings, may be removed to cool pits or frames, east or north aspect (air being admitted early in fine weather, and closed early), until required for the forcing house. A short difference of a week or fortnight between the periods of potting, will produce a corresponding difference in the periods of bloom.

For culture in glasses, the bulbs should be so placed that only the base of each touch the water, the supply being given to that effect; they should then be placed within a side recess, or upon a shelf, in a cool place, screened from the light, until the roots are considerably developed, before being exposed to the action of sunlight in a drawing-room window, or vase. All adventitious or impure matter, secreted from the water, should be removed by occasionally replenishing the glasses with pure water; no injury is sustained by the operation. After the removal of the bulbs to their position for flowering, they should not be removed from it, except in the case of winter-bloomed bulbs, for the purpose of protection from frost, or chilling atmosphere by night. Rain or soft water is most conducive to their vigour. Many of the fine single-flowered varieties of Hyacinths are more effective that the double ones, and, as a general rule, the former succeed better than the latter, in glasses.

## GLADIOLUS.

The several sections of this tribe, in their hardy and half-hardy divisions, constitute one of the finest features of the flower garden, during the late summer and autumn months.

Their neat, erect, graceful style of growth, and adaptation to common soils and mixtures, render them fitted

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to impart a very gorgeous and telling effect to gardens on the most select or extensive scale, and moreover, are specially suited for pot culture.

Amongst the hardiest varieties, G. byzantinus, with the rich dark violet crimson hue, and G. floribundus, with purple crimson streaks upon a delicate blush pink and white ground, as well as the hardier and yet brilliant varieties of G. gandavensis, are admirably adapted for planting in masses, throughout the front ground of select shrubberies and plantations; in such positions, they are, in variety, amongst the richest objects for autumnal decoration.

The hybrid varieties of G. cardinalis, blooming in June and July, from eighteen inches to two feet in height, are the earliest-flowering of the genus, and being more specially adapted for pot culture than the rest, may either be planted six inches deep, in open ground beds, or potted in autumn; if the former, they will require to be protected from intense frost, by a thick layer of perfectly dry old tan, or course leaf mould, until February or March; or if in the latter method, planted in eight-inch pots, two or three bulbs in each, in equal proportions of loam, peat, leaf mould, and sand, and plunged in cold pits, frames, or cradle-beds, with external protection, and exposed to the air, in all mild weather, until spring; those in beds requiring protection from spring frosts, and those in pots removed as required from the pits to the conservatory and greenhouse, for bloom. As the growth advances to maturity, the principal precautions are, attention to watering, by night, and slight sprinklings over the foliage, in the morning.

The kinds most suitable for greenhouse decoration vary in colour from scarlet to the brightest carmine and rosy salmon, with oblong and oval blotches of snow white on the lower petals, belted and shaded with crimson or violet purple; and others, from white to pink and delicate rose grounds, with dark blotches on the lower petals.

After blooming in pots, the bulbs may remain, having

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a perfect cessation of growth, in a dry warm place for a few weeks, and thus kept at rest, either in pots or out, until late autumn; then be repotted, slowly started into growth, and "freely watered, but seldom," until fairly started into growth, either in pots or beds.

The hybrids of G. ramosus are similar in style of growth to the previous class, but more robust in habit, and produce larger racimes of bloom, including all the intermediate shades of colour, from the most brilliant scarlet to rose and rosy crimson, and from rosy carmine to rich salmon, ornamented on the lower petals somewhat similar to the last described. These varieties are also adapted for pot culture, and, by their larger size and hardiness, are more favourable for open ground culture, in beds or groups, and, with surface protection over the roots, may successfully be preserved in the same position for a second season's bloom.

The varieties of G. gandavensis are the most stately and effective in the whole genus, and most valuable, from the consideration of their being perfectly hardy. Their robust, erect, irislike growth, with green, sword-shaped leaves, and magnificent flower scapes, rising from three to five feet in height, with terminal long racimes of spreading, lobed, salverlike blossoms, from three to four inches in diameter, are grand in effect, as seen towering in spikes of "glittering sheen" from the intervening spaces of evergreen shrubs, throughout the autumn months.

The colours comprise the most brilliant of orange, scarlet, and vermillion tints, upon yellow and orange grounds, including a graduated scale of intermediate shades—from white, with rosy blush and salmon rose tints, to salmon red and nankeen;—from blush white, with purple crimson throat and marginal streaks of pink, to light rosy salmon grounds, with flakes of deep carmine. Thus, from white up to rose, and rose to the brightest and deepest crimson, and from crimson to the brightest orange, flame, and scarlet, this very splendid section affords a combination of the richest conceivable

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colours which any other genus can offer. The bulbs of this section, though hardy, are considered to bloom finer by affording them a season of dry rest; therefore, from the late summer and autumn period at which they flower, it is found the most safe to defer the replanting until the latter end of April, or beginning of May, thereby avoiding the cold rains, which are injurious to the slowly vegetating organs of the plants. After the blooming season, the bulbs should be thoroughly dried, and stored away, until the ensuing spring. In planting, cover each bulb with clean river sand.

## IXIAS, SPARAXIS, AND TRITONIAS.

The best season for planting these beautiful and picturesque flower bulbs, is during the autumn months; as small bulbs, they are most effective when planted in stores of three, four, or six in each pot, of four or six inches in diameter.

The most suitable soil is equal portions of loam, peat, heath mould, and sand, well incorporated, planted one inch in depth, covering each bulb with clean river sand, the soil being sufficiently dry to admit firm pressure, without injury, and they should be freely watered within twelve hours after planting; after that period, the rule of management should be, seldom but free waterings, for a month or six weeks, until the root growth is formed. The pots should be plunged in dry ashes or gravel, within a pit or frame, exposed in all mild weather, by day and night, but protected, externally, with mats or straw, from intense frost. In open-ground culture, they should be planted six inches deep, covering the bulbs with clean river sand, previous to the soil. In case of excessive rains, the beds should be covered with inclined boards, for the first six weeks or two months, to promote a slow formation of root growth by a modified degree of moisture; and on the approach of severe frost, they should be covered with perfectly dry old tan, sawdust, or wood ashes, to six or eight inches in depth.

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## GUERNSEY AMARYLLIS, OR NERINE.

Of this beautiful tribe of plants much has been said, and the great beauty of the far famed Guernsey Lily, is a recognized fact, but it has sunk into comparative insignificance by the varieties coruscans, Fothergilli, and venusta. The blood red crumpled petals of the one, and the vivid vermilion of the other, are exquisitely beautiful; whilst the last, when contrasted with the original, is a larger flower, and of a much more brilliant rose colour,—the flowers have the appearance of being spangled all over with gold dust, when the sun shines upon them. The varieties all thrive well in a light sandy loam, and require encouragement and protection, during the winter months, with an abundance of air, so as to perfect the development of their foliage.

## AMARYLLIS.

The natural order of Amaryllideæ, as typified in the above genus, is distinguished above all others for the rapidity and facility with which its stately and ornate flower scapes can be produced, from the succession bulbs of a moderate collection, when provided with a slight root temperature, upon a bed of tan, or the moistened surface of a modified heated tank or flue, a few weeks being sufficient to develope one or more of the scapes, with brilliant scarlet, crimson, or white lilylike drooping vase, or bell-shaped blossoms, striped with white or crimson. The soil most suitable for its culture is a good friable highly decomposed turfy loam, with one-fourth part of rich leaf mould, or pulverised manure, and the ordinary proportion of sand, in mixture. After the bloom, encouragement should be given to mature a vigorous leaf growth, in a warm genial atmosphere, and then, gradually, six or ten weeks' entire cessation of growth should be allowed, and in the meantime, stored away in the pots, upon a dry warm shelf or shed. By strict attention to this rule, many of the bulbs may again be progressively started into growth, for a second flower scape, within the same year, or the bulbs may be preserved, in a warm room or stove, until the early



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spring. A succession of these gorgeous flowers will add a fine effect to a select collection of plants, in a warm greenhouse, throughout the autumn, winter, and spring months.

E. G. HENDERSON.

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THE

## Merits of the Fern for Decorative Purposes,

AND A

LIST OF SORTS FOR THE CONSERVATORY.

THE Fern has become a favourite plant, and deservedly so. Who that has seen a fine collection of Ferns, like the one at the Exotic Nursery, Chelsea, has not been struck with their beautiful and graceful forms, in almost endless variety? It must, then, be admitted by every observer of fine forms, that the absence of gay colours in the flowering class is counterbalanced by the elegant and graceful formation of the fronds or foliage. For decorative purposes, the Ferns are invaluable. What lady would think her bouquet complete, without a frond of the Maidenhair Fern? And how they enhance the beauty and appearance, when mixed with flowering plants, particularly the Orchids, with their gorgeous flowers, but somewhat formal and sometimes scanty foliage. We were among the first to grow Orchids in the same house with stove plants, at that time thought impossible. We also grew Ferns mixed with them. The one lent beauty of form, the other returned the compliment with gorgeous colours. Fancy the lovely Dendrobium nobile and Oncidium papilio drooping over the graceful forms of Adiantum formosum, Cheilanthus vestita, and the Gold and Silver Ferns. I can imagine nothing more beautiful than the two above-named plants; they each give a succession of charms throughout the year. We saw a fine display, the other day, at Mr. Veitch's, Chelsea,

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with that beautiful Orchid Odontoglossum grande, in a greenhouse, with a north aspect, the centre and back filled with Ferns, chiefly from Australia and Madeira, and the front stage filled with the above-named, in full flower. What a charming sight to the lover of beautiful colours. This plant is considered by some difficult to grow and flower; but, from what we saw at Mr. Veitch's, we should say it is the cool treatment it requires.

BRITISH FERNS.—Polystichum confluens (very rare), Polystichum augustatum, Polystichum imbricatum (beautiful, but rare), Lastrea felix mass var. cristata, Asplenium otites, Polypodium cambricane, Asplenium dupeianum.

MADEIRA.—Duvallia Canariensis, Duvallia pulchella (very rare), Lastrea elongata, Lastrea glabella, Asplenium monanthemum, Asplenium lucidum, Asplenium umbrosum, Adiantum reniforme.

M. BUSBY, F.H.S.

## Culture of Tender Azaleas.

[Continued from page 224.]

THE number and the size of the specimens, when they are introduced into the stock of decorative plants, must depend greatly on the space at command; but generally, where they are grown extensively, plants of various sizes are in request. It would, therefore, be superfluous to extend these remarks through the process of shifting the plants from one pot to another, until they arrive at maturity, because the treatment, as regards potting, watering, syringing, stopping, and training, during the summer growing period, is the same with plants of every size. I will briefly notice a few of the more important points in their cultivation.

POTTING.—Almost every one about a garden can put a plant into a pot. Common things need little attention in this respect, but such plants as Azaleas, Heaths,

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&c. demand judgment and care in potting. The following are simple points to be noticed. That all specimens be repotted when their roots have penetrated the last portion of the soil of the previous potting. That the size of the pots be increased gradually, not allowing too much pot-room at once, for nothing good results from pushing plants of slow habit of growth into large pots at once. The better way is to repot frequently and advance one size each time. That no plant be shifted when it is at rest, that is, during the autumn or winter months. That potting should not take place before January—and not then, if a growing temperature cannot be had—and not later than the middle of August. That there be liberal provision for drainage,—two inches of crocks in six-inch pots, and a proportionate quantity in pots of larger size. That the ball of the plant be placed in the pot with its surface, at the base of the stem, an inch below the level of the rim, and the soil slightly inclining towards the side of the pot. That a rather close moist shady temperature be afforded plants recently shifted, until they begin to grow; and they must receive but little water at the roots. until active growth commences.

Stopping.—This is the term used for the process of pinching off the extremities of the young shoots, to increase the number of bloom-bearing shoots, and induce a compact habit of growth. When the Azalea starts into growth, after blooming, three or more shoots are produced from the base of the flower stem, and if these are pinched back to two or three eyes from their base, each eye will generally produce a shoot, which, if pinched back, after having acquired some degree of solidity, will greatly multiply the number of blooming shoots for the ensuing season, besides being productive of a compact habit of growth. The time to discontinue stopping must depend on the time the plants are wanted in bloom; if early, there must be no stopping after the end of July, at the very latest.

Forcing.—When plants are to be bloomed early, say in January, they must be placed in a growing temperature at least a month or six weeks previous to the

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time of blooming. The pots must be plunged in material for giving a gentle bottom heat, in a pit, in the forcing house, and during the first week, the plants must receive no artificial heat, but be occasionally sprinkled with soft tepid water, from the syringe, and the house shut up early, with sun, allowing all the air possible, after nine o'clock in the morning, till halfpast two or three in the afternoon, and giving no great quantity of water at the root, till the plants commence growing, when they may have a slight increase of temperature, fifty to fifty-five degrees by night, and ten degrees higher by day. As the bloom is developed, it is better to discontinue syringing, and produce a damp heat by sprinkling the hot water pipes early in the morning and late in the evening. Frequent applications of manure water will be of service, in increasing the size of the bloom and giving strength to the plants. By this practice, with frequent blinks of sunshine, by the beginning of January, or earlier, if forcing was begun earlier, the cultivator will have the gratification of seeing, in the gloom of winter, his plants

> "Put forth their buds—unfolding by degrees,
> Till the whole leafy forest stands display'd
> In full luxuriance."

And if at a more advanced period of the year, I might add, see his plants

> "At once arrayed
> In all the colours of the flushing year."

TRAINING is a point in the culture that requires the most strict attention, and every operation relating to it ought to be performed in a neat and workmanlike manner, avoiding the use of supports in all cases except where the habit of the variety actually requires them. In many instances, good cultivation, with a correct knowledge of the natural habit of the subjects in training, will prove a substitute for supports and bast ligatures, both which are often used to such an extent as to disfigure the plants they are applied to. A graceful outline should be presented, whatever may be the shape of the specimens in general. The growth should be uniform, and all the shoots be made to pro-



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ceed in a direct line from the centre, not curled and twisted into shape round a number of unsightly supports.

PROPAGATION BY GRAFTING.—This is generally done to improve the character and increase the durability of some of the more tender kinds, which have been found to last longer and do better under this treatment. Any of the strong-growing varieties may be selected for stocks. I have generally practised side-grafting with the greatest success, although any of the other modes of grafting are applicable. About the end of June is the best time for this operation, if solid wood of the same year's growth can be obtained. After the scions are inserted, and bound round with bast, the plants should have the advantage of a brisk growing temperature, where bottom heat can be applied, with shading, when necessary. With small plants, in the stove pit, I have used hand-lights. These were kept close and shaded, in a moist atmosphere, formed by syringing slightly, until the scions were united with the stocks, which I have found to take from a month to six and even eight weeks, when they were allowed to have more air, and were treated like the general stock

SUMMER TREATMENT.—When the plants have made sufficient growth for the ensuing bloom, if the weather be favourable, and they have been exposed to a free admission of air, in a cool temperature, they may be removed out of doors, to a shaded situation, for the first month or six weeks. After that time, an open airy place, fully exposed to the sun, will be found best, to mature the growth; and if the pots are plunged in a bed of cinder ashes, a foot or more in depth, the plants will be kept cool at the root, and require less water. When in this situation, frequent applications of soft water, discharged overhead, from the garden engine, will keep them clean and healthy. This is best done in the evening, if the nights are mild, and there is no dew.

WINTER TREATMENT.—When the weather becomes unfavourable, from heavy rains and slight frosts, the plants should be removed to their winter quarters. The best place for them is a house or pit, where they

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can have plenty of air and be just protected from frost, though a few degrees of frost will not injure them, if they are in a good condition at the root, and the growth is matured. But little water is wanted at the root, during winter, and if the place be kept dry and airy, little fire heat will be needed.

The following are a few sorts worthy of cultivation :— Alba magna, Alba lutescens, Albert, Apollo, Aurora, Barclayana, Criterion, Chelsoni, Duke of Devonshire, Delecta, Exquisita, Extraui, Gem, Gledstanesi, Glory of Sunning Hill, Iveryana, Lateritia, Magnifica, Minerva, Optima, Perryana, Petunaeflora, Rosy Circle, Variegata, and Variegata superba.

GEORGE TAYLOR.

*Danson, Bexley, Kent.*

# The Science of Floriculture.

BY G. GLENNY, AUTHOR OF "THE PROPERTIES OF FLOWERS."

FLORICULTURE has progressed, in spite of the persevering efforts of a certain class to check it, and those varieties that approach the standard, are selected by the public, notwithstanding the great number of worthless subjects that are annually forced out with them; but there has been no little pains taken to lower the standard of perfection, by calling hundreds of flowers first-class, when they are not so, and if the public took their instructions from certificates, and the descriptions of dealers, they would have a very erroneous impression as to the properties of a first-class variety. In respect to one flower, the Dahlia, there was a rule laid down that no less than six blooms should be shown, before the Metropolitan Society would allow judgment to be given. It was known that those who were proving a variety the year after it was raised, made a point of planting out twenty or thirty, and it was very naturally concluded that if six blooms could not be produced, the

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thing was too uncertain to be worth growing. But this stringent rule was not agreeable to those who raised seedlings; they had too many uncertain flowers, and although the metropolitan rule, which was a great security to the public, was adopted by other societies, the raisers of seedlings exerted their influence to get it reduced to three, in the South London Society, and accordingly succeeded. From that time, there has been no dependance on certificates, nor could a man trust his own judgment. The system of dressing up blooms, for show, flourished from that time, for although hours were spent in disguising the specimens, three only took half the time of six, and many were so completely metamorphosed, that the best judges would be deceived. The Metropolitan Society, which adopted "the Properties of Flowers" for their standard of excellence, for every thing, and would not patronise less than six blooms, broke up rather than be made the tool of a designing few. But the Dahlia is abandoned, the first year, by almost all growers, except those who cultivate for sale, and people are enabled to obtain not only the finest varieties, which are found out during the autumn shows, but they are enabled to get half-guinea flowers at one-tenth of the price. Thus, although ten bad varieties come out for one good one, those who are wise and have attended to us, have escaped. Some of the flowers, of last year, that made a favourable impression upon many, turned out most uncertain brutes, and those that were worth another trial, evidently wanted the raiser's ingenuity and labour to make them any thing like what they were shown as seedlings. Nevertheless these marplots are obliged to bow to "the Properties of Flowers," for their entire labour in dressing is expended on an endeavour to bring the specimens as nearly as possible to the required form. With regard to Geraniums, there is just as much dressing, but in a different way. Certain varieties that curl up their lower petals, have, every one of them, to be pushed up in the middle, and down at the edges, and those things that are not worth growing, are made to appear very passable. The num-

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ber of those that are certified to be good, and come out every year, is far too great, but still they cannot impeach the standard by which they are judged. Go from this to Hollyhocks, and we see twenty in a year certified, all professedly judged by the standard laid down, but the majority are so like the varieties we already have, that they are, to a certain extent, of no value,—that is to say, no extra value. The Hollyhock is one of those flowers, the seeds of which, if grown by itself, will produce a great majority of the progeny sufficiently like to pass for the parent, so that a pinch of seed, saved from good flowers, would produce a collection every way good enough for garden ornament, and some quite equal to the flowers they come from. Nobody, however, will look at one that is not a near approach to the standard. But people who look at seedlings as they are shown, must not expect to be able to produce them as good. There is a good deal of trickery in growing Hollyhocks for show, but none of it is incompatible with the appearance of a gentleman's garden, except the ugly shades, and these are hardly necessary in ordinary seasons. By the way, we may observe here, that nobody who knew the Hollyhock of old days, when it was only a large flimsy dish, and at best, with a few florets in the centre, could have imagined it possible to bring it to what it is now. And all this was the work of one man, for Mr. Barron had got it over all its difficulties, by years of quiet perseverance, and his seeds produced the first good ones that anybody else raised. There is scarcely any thing to wish now, but that the guard petals were thicker, and for this we must now work. The Fuchsia has come very close to the standard. Many of the present varieties are, in form, nearly all we could wish, but, like all other flowers, there have been so many inferior ones sent out, that we are always perplexed by the similarity of one to another. So far as colour and contrast are concerned, we have been delighted with the Rose of Castile; pure white sepals, and mazarine blue corolla. It is the most striking of the whole family. We do not mean to say

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it is all perfection, but the one point of contrast perfect, and no outrageous fault, made that deserving the highest price charged for a Fuchsia. We do not even know who raised it, or who sent it out. The Fuchsia, therefore, is on a fair way of reaching the standard, within a very little. What are we doing with the Rose? Here our principal novelties are importations, and our neighbours across the channel supply us most liberally with things no better than we have, and with many much worse. Rose growers fight hard against "the Properties," but the public will not have semidouble varieties. General Jacqueminot has been praised even by Mr. Rivers. It has but two points in its favour. It is a prolific bloomer, and a most rich red morocco colour. But it is the worst in form, has only two or three rows of large flimsy petals, opens a staring bunch of yellow stamens, and, so far as we are concerned, it is the worst we know. It is, in its way, as thin as Sofrano. But, amidst the hundreds of Roses, we can pick out a collection of fine double well-formed varieties, and we are not obliged to buy the rubbish. We have, this year, picked out the cream of the collection, and shall, next month, give the names of forty or fifty that will do anybody good service, in the garden, or on the exhibition table. But of all the flowers that have advanced in quality, the Chrysanthemum is hardly second, but we have done little of ourselves. The "Properties of Flowers" reached France and Italy; there they saw what the English required, and soon knew how to choose, and what to send. The consequence was, that every year added to the good double sorts, and we have only now to forbid dressing, make everybody show naturally-grown blooms, and put a stop to what is, at the best, a mean deception. Some gentlemen growers are already impressed with an idea of the necessity of showing flowers as they come in fair growth, and the East London Society did have one class, if not more, in which the flowers were to be shown as they were cut, and the blooms looked wholesome, though the disk slightly showed in several. But

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look back to Mr. Hayworth's description of the sorts then known. Not one of them would be tolerated in an English garden. Science has done something for this flower, in the way of cultivation. Young growers have started up and perfectly astounded the old growers, by their extraordinary specimens. Mr. Holland, gardener to Mr. Peake, exhibited Pompones eighteen inches high, four feet and upwards across, and literally covered with flowers. This year, there is a score of ambitious candidates for prizes, all vieing with each other, and we shall be mistaken if we do not see many specimens from fifteen to eighteen feet round. But we have to record a further advance. Mr. Morgan, of the enclosed gardens of Lincolns Inn, has, so far as we can yet see, left them all in the lurch. He has a dozen standard Pompones, on stems, three feet high, with heads four or five feet over,—a perfect treat to look upon; and he has others, on the ground, the form of a round pyramid, not quite so large as those of Egypt, but we really believe, close upon six feet across, and, as near as we can guess the point, not more than three feet high. To him belongs the laurels, this season, no matter whether he shows for prizes or not, for we shall be astonished if we meet with any thing to equal them. We shall, however, act as judge at the Society of Original Newington Growers, meeting for the last twelve years at the Rochester, and if we find ourselves mistaken, we shall own it. Mr. Holland, when we called on him, had seventy or eighty beautifully-grown seedlings, the majority promising to be double, from seed imported by us, and put in his hands to try. We shall be deeply interested in the result; they were all three or four feet high. Mr. Broome tells us that there are nine societies now near London. The flower that lags most behind, in these days of advancement, is the Auricula; very few grow the flower at all. Nothing very new or good has been raised for years. The best we remember of the moderns, is Cheetham's Lancashire Hero. We have seen several batches of seedlings, that came nearly all green, reminding us forcibly of a lot we had, in which

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there was scarcely any ground colour, although the seed was from good flowers. Unless they are doing better in the country than we are round London, we fear the flower will be neglected altogether. But it is more pleasant to notice those which advance. The Cineraria was the subject of a paper last week, and we rejoice to say, that between the time that was written and the present day, the improvement of the flower has been extraordinary. In some varieties, we have nearly all we want—form in one, texture in another, and contrast in a third, and in some, all these, in a moderate degree, combined. We hardly know whether we are still to hope for improvement. We had twelve, last year, of the finest in cultivation, perfect show plants, and have kept them in a front garden, that they might be seen. We found them seed to that degree that we could now sow and plant half an acre, or a whole one, and when cut down, they were just as prolific in suckers. When we see the quality of the flowers, and the noble specimens plants will become, by only stopping them judiciously, and constantly potting them on, we may say that science has done much for it. The Polyanthus seems a northern flower, for nobody grows it well in the south. If we could get hold of a healthy stock, we should try to grow it on a border, under a north wall, but we have twice had collections that were in a state that we could not recover. The latest flowers of any account, so far as we know, were those raised by Mr. Thompson, of Morpeth. It is for those who have the convenience and the mind to take up some of these neglected things, and set them going again. So many are ready always to follow a good example, that many might be induced to commence, and, at all events, something would be gained, if those who had a stock of any neglected subjects, advertised it to the floral world. The great proof that floricultural science does advance, in spite of the great number of worthless novelties that almost swamp the good ones, is, that the growers are well up in "the Properties of Flowers," and will not buy the first year, unless we can give them a few to depend on.

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## Cultivation of Summer Roses in Pots.

FOR this purpose, a selection of the finest double varieties is alone eligible. Plants worked on neat stems, not more than four inches high, and with fibrous compact roots, so that they will admit of being placed in the centre of the pots, should be potted late in October, or early in November, in twenty-four-sized or eight-inch pots, in a compost of loam and rotten manure, or loam and leaf mould and manure, in equal quantities. If to a bushel of this compost half-a-peck of pounded charcoal is added, it will be improved. After potting, they should be placed on slates, and then plunged in sawdust, or old tan, so that the surface of the mould in the pots is covered about two inches in depth with the material used for plunging. A sunny exposed situation is better than under a wall; for when placed near a wall, the branches always incline from it, so that the plant, in lieu of being round and compact, as it ought to be, becomes one-sided. In February following, they may be pruned in closely, that is to within two or three buds of the base of each shoot, and remain plunged during the summer. Additional vigour may be given, by removing the sawdust or tan from the surface of the pots, in March, and substituting rotten manure. During the summer, all suckers must be carefully removed, and in June, July, and August, all luxuriant shoots shortened, by pinching off their ends, and superfluous shoots nipped in the bud; so that each plant is made to form a neat compact bush, not too much crowded with shoots. If this is properly attended to, they will scarcely require pruning the following spring, but only a few of the shoots thinning out, that is, entirely removing. These plants will require abundance of water, in dry hot weather, in summer; and once a-week, in June and July, they should be watered with guano water. A pound to twenty gallons of water will be of sufficient strength.



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If not placed on slates, the pots must be removed once a-fortnight, to prevent the roots entering the soil underneath, which would give the plants much additional vigour; but the check they receive when removed is very injurious, therefore this must be carefully guarded against. The above treatment is also applicable to Moss and Provence Roses on their own roots, which, when required for forcing, may at once be removed from the plunging bed, after having remained there one summer, to the forcing house. Those required for exhibition only, may also remain there till near the blooming season; when, if it is wished to retard them, they may be placed under a north wall; if to accelerate, they may be removed to the greenhouse, or to a pit or frame, under glass.

With the exception of the Moss and Provence Roses, which are and always will be favourites for forcing, summer Roses are not so eligible for pot culture as the autumnal Roses; they bloom but once, and, if intended for exhibition, it is so extremely difficult to have them in perfection on any given day. If the season be cold and cloudy, it is most difficult to bring them forward, as fire heat, in summer, is injurious to Roses brought from the open air; and if dry and hot, it is equally difficult to retard them, at least, this can be done only for a very short period.

Moss and Provence Roses that have been forced, have generally been thought to require a season's rest, but with the following treatment this will not be required. Presuming that they have bloomed in February or March, they should have their shoots shortened to within two or three buds, be repotted, and placed in a cold frame, plunged in the before-mentioned materials, and, towards the end of April, placed in the open air, as before directed. If carefully attended to during the summer, the plants will be sufficiently vigorous to bear forcing again the ensuing season. Those plants intended only for exhibition, or to bloom at the usual season, without forcing, may be shifted annually, to-

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wards the end of September, and the earth shaken entirely from the roots. From eight-inch pots they may be shifted into nine-inch or sixteens; and it will not be advisable to place them in any of the larger-sized pots, unless plants are required of extra size, as they become heavy, and difficult to move with safety.

There appears to me much room for improvement in the pot culture of summer Roses. Why should they not have shade and shelter? Are they less worthy than the gaudy but odourless Tulip? the Carnation? the Auricula? All these have shade and shelter, in their blooming season. Why then, have we neglected to give it to the Rose? Simply because fashion has not led the way. We well know how frequently rain and wind destroy nearly all the flowers of our summer Roses. How easy, then, would it be, to erect a light shed, covered with canvass, something like those used to cover Tulips, when in bloom. An erection of this kind, thirty to forty or fifty feet long, and from eight to ten feet wide, would admit of a path in the centre, and a border of Roses, in pots, on each side. If the weather should be unfavourable, their flowers would expand in perfection, unscathed by those summer storms of wind and rain peculiar to our climate, so fatal to flowers, and, above all, to Roses; and if, on the contrary, we have "real merry days of June," with a glowing and unclouded sun, how agreeable would be the shade of the "rosarium," how beautiful the tints of the flowers thus shaded, and how delightful their perfume! If the weather be warm and dry, Roses placed in a temporary erection of this kind should be carefully, but not too abundantly, watered every evening, and, what is better than saturating the pots with water, the central path should be sprinkled two or three times a-day, and water poured on the ground, between the pots. The canvass covering should always be drawn up in calm cloudy weather, day and night, for Roses are impatient of confinement.

*Rivers's Rose Amateur's Guide.*

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# Calendar of Operations.

AZALEAS.—Train and tie any plants that require it. Give abundance of air, night and day, while the weather is mild, to those that are wanted to bloom in late spring and early summer. Keep the young plants in the warmest part of the house. Use the syringe freely amongst those to flower in winter and early spring, and maintain a moist temperature of from fifty to fifty-five degrees by night, and sixty to seventy degrees by day. See that none suffer for want of water.—E. CLEETON, *gardener to E. Holland, Esq., M.P., Dumbleton.*

CHRYSANTHEMUMS.—I know no florists' flower that has all at once taken such a rapid step as the Chrysanthemum. Around London, we are to have nine shows, in November, and a great number in the provinces; in fact, I believe that, next year, every lover of floriculture will grow Chrysanthemums, consequently they will be in great demand, and I would recommend those who now grow them to make sure of a good stock of suckers of each variety, before the frost sets in. Many of the best sorts are now throwing up their next year's shoots. They should be carefully cut off with a strong knife, and to make sure of plants, if a bit of root can be got with each, all the better. Still cuttings are preferable, if convenient to strike, as the plants have a better constitution, and are not so liable to throw up suckers. Six or seven in a forty-eight pot, placed round the edge, will keep in a close frame, or sheltered place, through the winter, and may be potted off in February. Loam and sand is the best compost, and they should have plenty of drainage, moderate watering, and plenty of air on fine days. Having had so little rain, this summer, I fancy we shall have a great quantity, with snow and frost, during the winter, therefore be prepared for it, and secure all the plants you can, before it comes. When the border varieties have done blooming, cut them down as soon as possible, and protect them round the roots with some temporary covering, such as ashes, sawdust, or dead leaves that are a little decayed. Flowers for exhibition should be carefully looked after, and wet or damp should not be allowed to lie too long on the petals, or they will be spoiled. Those in the open borders should have a temporary covering of unbleached calico. Dip it in boiled linseed oil, mixed with bullock's blood, and wring it out afterwards; it keeps out the wet better, and will soon dry, if stretched tight. Remove all curly petals, and ease, with a sharp-pointed stick or bone, the hard-eyed gummy petals that stick close together in the centre, or the back petals will fall before the centre expand. If the bloom comes too early for the show, cut it off, before it is fully expanded, and put it into a small bottle, or some other vessel, filled with water, but not to touch the petals. Place it on a

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board, covered with damp flannel, and keep out the air by covering with a small striking glass. By this means, they will keep three weeks, and be better and fresher when taken out than when put in. If too much moisture hangs on the glass, wipe it off, or the bloom will rot. Watch them daily, and don't put them on the exhibition table till the last hour, or they will begin to drop the petals.——*Pompones.*—No time should now be lost in taking suckers or cuttings, for next year's specimen plants, putting six or seven in a five-inch pot, or a single plant in a small sixty, to be kept in a cold frame, through the winter, otherwise it is impossible to have monster plants, in eight-inch pots, four feet across, with two thousand blooms, for exhibition, this time next year. The best sorts to take are Cedo Nulli, Bob, Niobe, Madame Foule, Helene, Requiqui, Duraflet, Model, General Canrobert, Drindrin, Brilliant, Mustapha, Trophee, Rose Pompone. Mr. Morgan, of Lincoln's Inn Fields, has grown some pretty standards, three feet six inches high, and two feet over, on one straight stem. They were started in November, trained up to the end of May, and then stopped twice up to August, tied down flat, like a table, with bass, as the laterals threw out, keeping the shoots regularly spread out, and not allowing one a bit higher than the other. They bloom freely, and look very pretty. As the stem grows up, all laterals must be carefully taken out as soon as they break, till it has reached the required height, before it is stopped. But they must be started now, or they will form poor heads. Plant the cuttings or suckers in sand and loam, with moderate watering.—S. Broome, F.H.S., *Temple Gardens.*

Cinerarias.—See to regulating the leaves and shoots as they grow. A compact head of bloom depends greatly upon the treatment the plants receive before they are in flower. If allowed to assume their natural habit of growth, they get tall, but if constantly pegged down, a great improvement may be observed. Keep the plants clear from decayed foliage and greenfly. They will be making rapid growth now, and should receive an abundance of air, every favourable opportunity. See also that the plants do not suffer for want of water. Repot any that may have filled their pots with roots.—John Dobson, *Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth.*

Epacrises.—These plants should still be furnished with plenty of air, day and night, when the weather is mild, to allow the buds plenty of time to get full and prominent. The earliest, if required, may be forwarded by introducing them into a warmer house or forcing structure. Some care is now required in the application of water. I always prefer, at this season, giving it in the morning, that the house may get dry by night.—Edward Cleeton, *gardener to E. Holland, Esq., M.P., Dumbleton.*

Dahlias.—Take up the roots of Dahlias at the earliest convenience, although the weather still continue open and growing

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for the season, for those which have bloomed from an early period, if allowed to remain in the ground, will commence making fresh shoots from the crowns, which will prove very injurious to the roots, for spring propagation. If they are only required to be divided in spring, this precaution is not so requisite. Nevertheless, you will always find those roots which have grown again to keep but indifferently through the winter. Before taking the roots up, be prepared with new labels. Cut the stems about six inches above the crown, and secure the name or number to each, with copper wire. If tied with twine, and the roots become damp, the twine soon decays, and the name is frequently lost. Place the roots as directed last month, to dry, turning them upside down, to drain out any moisture which the stem contains. When sufficiently dried, place the roots in their winter quarters, bearing in mind to keep them out of the reach of frost. Those who have but little room to store them in, may put them in a box or hamper, five or six deep, they will not be damaged by placing them that thickness.—RICHARD EDWARDS, *Nuthall.*

FORCING DEPARTMENT.—*Early Vinery.*—If the Vines or other things in this house have not been pruned, prune them immediately. Keep the house close, only using as much heat as will keep out frost, and be sparing of moisture. The lights may be kept generally close, opening a little occasionally, to keep the air sweet and wholesome.——*Late Vinery.*—Great care will be required, after this time, to keep fruit hanging till the end of January. We have found it a good plan to give a little heat, early in October, leaving air on at all times, in dry weather; for if the house be allowed to fall to the point of saturation, and continue for any length of time, and then be suddenly heated, spotting and decay of the fruit may be expected to follow. Where but few Grapes are left, and the house is wanted for plants, it will be as well to cut them, and hang them up in a dry airy room, taking off the branch clean with the bunch, which will be found to keep better with the wood attached.——*Fig House.*—The plants here may still be exposed, as no plant seems to enjoy a long winter repose more than the Fig. If it be kept dry, no frost will hurt it. How often do we see the Fig tree covered and thatched, on the open wall, all to no purpose, particularly when grown on the long barren rod system, with large succulent shoots, like Elder. These might or might not bear a fruit or two, at the top. But is it compatible with the natural growth of the Fig, to train and grow it in this way? It does not grow so, if planted out in the open ground. Witness those grown in most gardens on the south coast, particularly in the neighbourhood of Worthing, in Essex. In planting the Fig, keep the roots quite near the top, use soil of a light calcareous nature, not rich, and mulch on the top, with half decayed leaves. In training, lay in as many principal shoots as are required to furnish the wall, or if trained from a single stem all the better. Stop them, to obtain a

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regular succession of "branching" spurs. These will give you, every season, an abundance of fruit, and the trees require but little protection in winter, being so thoroughly and easily matured, compared with the above-named rods, which are only fit, when grown, for flower stakes. All suckers should be rooted up at once, and all shoots of a plethoric habit be regularly cut out, so that they may not impede the growth, or shade the fruit-bearing wood. The Fig will ripen its fruit on any aspect but the north.—M. BUSBY, F.H.S.

FRUIT GARDEN.—Finish all planting this month, as newly planted trees will then get better rooted than if left till spring. Pruning of small fruits may be commenced, as soon as the leaf is off.—WILLIAM SHIPLEY, *Westbury, Wilts.*

FUCHSIAS.—The plants will be in their winter quarters, and will require but little attention, except those which are being gently grown on for the early shows. These must not be in too great heat. The temperature should not average more than fifty degrees. Cuttings may be put in, if they can be obtained, as they will make nice plants for decorating early. This being generally a quiet month with the plants, little advice is necessary.—JOHN DOBSON, *Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth.*

KITCHEN GARDEN.—Continue to earth up Celery, in favourable weather. Protect Lettuce, Endive, and Cauliflowers. Keep the lights off Lettuce and Cauliflower plants, in frames, when there is no danger of frost. A few Peas may be sown, in favourable situations; but I think the first sowing better deferred till January. Get all vacant ground dug and ridged.—W. SHIPLEY, *Westbury, Wilts.*

HEATHERY.—As these plants will have been housed for the winter, the air must be allowed to play among them day and night. Let them be watered in the morning. Turn the specimens round once a week, and keep the house neat and clean.—EDWARD CLEETON, *gardener to E. Holland, Esq., M.P., Dumbleton.*

PANSIES.—Although the past summer has been unusually dry and hot, the loss to Pansy growers, we think, has not been quite so great as last season. This may be prevented, by planting out in February or March, on a north border, and allowing them to grow as they please. An abundance of stock may be depended on in the autumn. The plants that have been potted up, will be benefited by plenty of air and light. Take off the lights at every favourable opportunity. Look after snails and slugs, which will commit great depredations, if allowed to go at large. Peg down those in beds that are likely to be broken by the wind.—J. DOBSON, *Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth.*

PELARGONIUMS.—The present is a very quiet month with these plants, and when watering, great care is necessary, to

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prevent wetting the foliage, as that, with keeping the house closed, and the dull weather we generally have in November, is the cause of the leaves fogging off. When this is the case, a little artificial heat, in the day time, will be beneficial, now and then giving air, at the same time. By this means also the house will be kept dry. In giving air, however, the temperature outside must be considered. If it is low, take care to avoid cold draughts. The temperature inside should range from forty to forty-five degrees. Keep the plants clear from fogged and decayed leaves, weeds, and greenfly. Repot any plants that are required to bloom early into their blooming pots. In potting, use a moderate supply of drainage. Plants that are irregular,—it is well known that some shoots will be inclined to grow stronger than others,—may have their tallest shoots pinched out at the crown. This will strengthen the other shoots, and be the means of ensuring a regular head of bloom. Go over the plants, and give them the first tying out. A piece of twisted matting, fastened under the rim of the pot, to which to tie the shoots, will be all that is necessary at the first going over.—JOHN DOBSON, *Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth.*

TULIPS.—Planting should be finished this month. The bed should range east and west, in a situation free from wet at the bottom; or if this exist, it must be removed by deep draining. The soil must be renewed annually, to the depth of about half a spade graft, and nothing is better than sandy turf, cut about three inches thick. Make the bed exactly level with the top of the edging, and plant on this surface, covering about three inches thick, near the sides, and five in the middle. Tulips are most effective when in flower, if planted in the herring-bone fashion, as described a few years ago, in the *Midland Florist.*—T. ALLESTREE, *Draycott, near Derby.*

ROSES.—Planting should be proceeded with at once. Choose a dry day, and, above all things, take care that the soil is well drained. In many places, standard Roses are planted in the turf, on the lawn. A hole is dug, three feet square, perhaps, in solid clay, a barrowload of prepared soil shot in, and the Rose planted; the first heavy rain that comes, after this season, fills the hole full of water, the Rose dwindles, and at length dies. A standard Rose, properly planted, in a suitable soil, will last for years. I have just planted two large beds,—one Souvenir de Malmaison and Jules Margottin, the other Gloire de Dijon and General Jacqueminot,—the soil all made, two barrowsful of stiff loam and one of well-rotted cow dung. The result will, I trust, be a splendid bloom next season.——*Roses in Pots* should be in their winter quarters, protected from heavy rains; and if wanted to bloom very early, a few may be taken from the cold pit to the greenhouse. The best for winter blooming are the Teas and Chinas. Give air at all times to young stock, and fumigate on the first appearance of greenfly.—HENRY DAVIES, *Great Stanmore.*

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# Personal.

TWO years ago, we were induced to take the charge of the *Midland Florist*, a periodical at that time rapidly sinking through the want of a director. We should not have taken this post on ourselves, but for the promise of help from numerous friends. Our knowledge of the printing and publishing trade enabled us to form some estimate of the cost, and also gave us the opinion that a useful, practical, and independent magazine might be maintained at the same price, and thus be within the reach of all. This opinion we have found to be correct, for, although the expenses of the new series are nearly double, there has been no loss on the issue.

Hitherto the work has been published by the firm to which we belonged. A dissolution of partnership has, however, brought us to the alternative of either giving up the *Midland Florist* or taking on ourselves the sole responsibility of publisher, proprietor, and editor. The advice of some of our best friends, aided by the yearnings of our own heart, has induced us to adopt the latter course, and we cheerfully take the whole risk, relying for support in our arduous undertaking on those friends who have hitherto so kindly assisted us. Many of our readers have, we are aware, felt considerable inconvenience and annoyance, from the numbers not appearing regularly on the 1st of the month, whilst others have felt themselves neglected as to correspondence, caused solely by our having a press of business on our hands. We, however, shall



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now start on a different footing. We shall establish an office for its publication distinct to itself, and we firmly believe that nothing will add more to to the success of the *Midland Florist* than a regular organized system of business.

We shall always feel it to be our first duty to attend to the wants and wishes of our numerous correspondents, and in doing this, shall still adhere to our maxim of independence. We have no connection with any establishment, and therefore have no other interests to advocate than those of the amateur and fair trader, and with these broad principles we are convinced we shall find a ready answer in the floral world.

We do not wish to appear at all egotistical in thus addressing our readers. All the honours the *Midland Florist* has acquired are the result, not so much of our own exertions, as the assistance of the numerous friends we have met with, and therefore we do not for a moment hesitate in laying the case before our readers, well knowing that they will do their best to sustain the work, and give us all the encouragement in their power.

We cannot refrain from taking this opportunity of thanking our subscribers. We have done our best to please, and if we have failed in this, it has not been from want of will, but from want of power.

We leave the case in the hands of the friends and supporters of the work. We shall do our best to improve it, and although we cannot afford to lose by the publication, we shall always be happy to give our time and energies for the good of floriculture.

ALFRED G. SUTTON.

## Chrysanthemum Exhibitions.

LONDON and the principal towns through England have, this autumn, been plunged into a complete state of furor, as regards the Chrysanthemum. Shows almost innumerable have taken place in almost

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every part where floricultural societies exist. We have visited the greater portion of these exhibitions, and not one of them should escape our notice, had we space to record them, but our publication will not admit of it. Although the provincial shows deserve especial notice, they were so exceedingly well got up, and in nine cases out of ten presented well grown plants and good blooms, still, London being the principal and having the best collections, we must confine ourselves to that district. Before entering, however, into any details, it perhaps may not be out of place to give some short history of the Chrysanthemum. Mr. Hadley, in correcting an error into which one of the London papers had fallen, says, "Chrysanthemums have been grown in our greenhouses and hothouses for above eighty years. The first I find recorded was the Chrysanthemum pinnatifidum, introduced into this country, from Madeira, in 1775, and the variety atratum, from Austria, about the same time. I believe the montanum was introduced from Italy, about 1759. I cultivated, myself, two varieties, white and straw colour, in 1815 and 1816. There are about eighteen or twenty varieties enumerated in *Douse's Hortus Cambridgensis*, published in 1855. The variety from which come the show flowers at present in vogue, is the Chinensis, and was introduced from China, about 1790." Dr. Lindley thus gives a short history. "From the 'old purple' came, in the way of a British-born sport, 'the changeable white,' itself followed by Chinese sorts, chiefly obtained by Sir Abraham Hume, the horticultural Mæcenas of the day. Thus, by 1808, about ten varieties had made their appearance among us, few of which are now remembered. Then came the long Peninsular war, and with it a temporary paralysis of gardening pursuits, but when peace returned, attention was turned again to these flowers, and mainly through the Horticultural Society, many a new and gaudy form was added to our collection. By 1824, their number had so much increased, that advantage was taken of the new curvilinear vinery being empty, at Chiswick, to

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hold there the first public exhibition of Chrysanthemums." "This," in the words of the late Mr. Joseph Sabine, "was generally allowed to be the most splendid one of flowering plants in one mass that had ever been seen, and superior to any other garden exhibition, at even the gayest season of the year." Certainly it was very pretty, but what would the worthy historian of the Chrysanthemum have said, had he lived to be present at St. James's Hall? In his days, exhibiting was not a system, there were no public honours worth naming, to rouse English gardeners to exertion and to stimulate their emulation, stirring up the torpid and rewarding the ambitious. Sleepiness pervaded the land of gardens.

When we look back upon forty years, during which we have personally been familiar with these flowers, and think of the changes they have undergone beneath the influence of domestication, we cannot but admire the patience and skill with which our English growers have effected, in less than half a century, more than the Chinese themselves have been able to produce from the days of Confucius. It is true, indeed, that a few of the choice sorts still hold a place in our gardens, but for the most part they are wholly eclipsed by English-raised seedlings, and when compared with the flowers produced by Bird, of Stoke Newington, they sink into absolute insignificance. This grower produced several new seedlings of such beauty as surprised even our veteran friend Broome, the gardener of the Templars. They were as nearly as possible spherical, and although untouched by the hands of "the dresser," as perfectly symmetrical as if they had been formed by art. The Queen of England, a very good white, was as large as a man's fist. It is clear that we need no longer send to the uttermost ends of Asia for this class of flowers. The Chrysanthemum may be justly called the Queen of Autumn Flowers, it being so easy of cultivation, so cheap to purchase, and when in the hand of the cultivator, so prolific and hardy that it will last for years.

Scarcely a cottager's garden in town, or a local

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suburban garden is now without them. They are, in fact, the cottager's pet flower, and we must take the initiative of all other floral publications, as being the first in the field to bring under the notice of our subscribers, the culture of the Chrysanthemum, by giving monthly directions for their cultivation, from some of the most successful growers in England.

There have been ten exhibitions in London, the Crystal Palace, Stoke Newington, &c. The latter, an original society, was evidently the best; they gave four five-guinea silver cups, which were well contended for. Some of the Pompones, grown in eight-inch pots, on one stem, a foot high, with a flat surface, from four to five feet across, with three thousand blooms, and foliage to the bottom of the stem, were truly splendid. Specimens of large varieties were equally as well grown, one in particular (Christine) by Mr. Argent, in a No. 4 pot, was seven feet across, full of perfect blooms, and good foliage. The cut blooms were all remarkably fine, especially the Queen of England, six inches across and four high, forming three parts of a ball, close up in the centre. Respecting the new varieties let out this spring, nothing was very attractive, the old sorts being the best. The anemone varieties were very fine, but at present they have little interest. The following were the favourites at all the exhibitions.

Twelve of the best large varieties, exhibited in eleven-inch pots, on one stem, by Mr. Ternby and Mr. Argent, Stoke Newington.—Christine, Vesta, Pilot, Annie Salter, Albin, Dr. Maclean, Defiance, Hermine, Madame Commerson, General Havelock, Mount Etna, Chauviere Dumage.

Twelve of the best Pompones, shown by Mr. Wiggins, gardener to E. Beck, Esq., Isleworth, and Mr. Holland, gardener to R. W. Peake, Esq., Hounslow.—Cedo Nulli, Mustapha, Saint Maias, Madame Foule, Drindrin, Duraflet, Helene, General Canrobert, Brilliant, Requiqui, Aurore Boreale, Bob. Mr. Holland exhibited this as the finest specimen. Mr. Wiggins took the cup at one show and Mr. Holland at the other.

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Twenty-four of the best cut blooms, Mr. Bird, of Stoke Newington.—Queen of England, Alfred Salter, Vesta, Anaxo, Etoile Polaire, Plutus, Hermine, Goliath, Yellow Formosum, Dupont de l'Eure, Racine, King, Amie Ferrier, Leon Leguay, Madame Andre, Nonpareil, Themis, Aregina, Cristophe Colombe, Madame Lebois, Pio Nono, Beauty.

Six of the best Anemones.—Marguerite de Yorke, Eclipse, Louis Bonamy, Gluck, Madame Godereau, King of Anemones.

Six of the Best Pompone Anemones.—Arine, Perle, Mr. Astie, Matau Sentir, Regulus, Marguerite de Wildemar.

A report of the best new varieties, to be let out next May, by the well known growers, shall appear in our next number.

*From a Regular Correspondent.*

# The Points of Perfection in Plants.

BY G. GLENNY.

AS we are called upon to judge at the furthest extremes of the country, and each post adds to our engagements, where days are left open, it may not be amiss to offer a few words of advice to exhibiters, who may be contending where we are to pass sentence. In the first place, we will touch upon general collections, which, in too many places, are invited without any particular number being mentioned. In such cases, people are too apt to aim at number and extent. So far as this can be carried out without duplicates and with good plants only, it is a great point, but every specimen that is below the average detracts from the merit of the collection more than would the absence of the number and extent, were they not shown. Some censors merely judge the remainder as if the bad

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ones were not present: we are more severe. We judge the good ones only, but allow the bad no quarter, and consider their presence a drawback. More than two of any one variety of, no matter what, is a losing game, because no credit can be given for them, they are excluded from all consideration in the summing up of *qualities*. Twelve good well-grown plants, one of a sort, or rather one of each genus only, would beat a hundred, unless among the hundred there were twelve distinct genera among them as good. It does not follow that the newest plants are the best, any more than are the most costly, although, if two collections were in all other respects equal, novelty would gain a point. Nurserymen very frequently make a display of numbers, bringing many plants of a sort, and half covering the tables, but all this would go for little, if there were a better grown collection of twelve, and all different. Above all things, an exhibiter should avoid being tempted to set up a new plant because it is new, without well considering whether it is equal in properties to many old ones, or sufficiently striking to become a favourite, or, which is still more important, whether it is in such condition as may be creditable to the grower. The properties of plants, that is to say the points that constitute perfection, are very easily defined. First, the foliage and habit should be rich and graceful of itself, even if there be no flower (instance, Camellia japonica, many of the Ericas, Eriostemon buxifolium, Myrtle, Coleonema, Rhododendron, Ixora, Gardenia, &c.) Or, if deficient in foliage, the flower should be striking or abundant (example, Gardenia Fortunii, Azalea Indica, Deutzia gracilis, Hovea Celsi, Euphorbia jaquiniflora, Platycodon Chinensis, &c.) Then, when we come to the points that depend on the gardener, the foliage should be a good healthy colour, the blooms fresh and properly developed, the plant of good form and well clothed with foliage to the bottom, and the flowers plentiful and well disposed. Some of these points are so completely overlooked, especially by gardeners who have large plants, that they

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get thrown out of the best prizes, and wonder why it happens. There are other points worthy of notice. Collections should be diversified in character and colour, for contrast and variety are very effective. No colour should predominate, and all should be present. Scarlet, rose, pink, lilac, blue, purple, orange, yellow, and white, in some form or other, should be aimed at, and as nearly represented as possible. Much depends on the time of year, the limits set as to the number of genera, and the number of subjects rejected. In some places, Orchids, Geraniums, Fuchsias, Ericas, and some other families are excluded, because separate classes are provided for them. The most judicious mode of inviting competition in general collections is to limit the exhibiter to two plants of any one genus, and to provide that they shall be two distinct varieties. In the spring shows, whites and yellows prevail to a great extent, and so far as we have seen, round the metropolis and at the great exhibitions, the desire of gardeners to put the most expensive plants up prevails over better taste. We have seen, over and over again, in the principal collections, whites and yellows, with scarcely any relief but Epacris grandiflora; nevertheless, all good plants. Some very striking plants are scarcely ever seen in collections. Ceanothus would supply blue in the most attractive form, growing, as it does, in fine pyramidal style, lavishly decorated with its splendid bunches of bloom at the ends of all the branches, and the foliage of a rich dark green. But it really seems the fashion to put up the same thing year after year, and the leading gardeners imitate each other, instead of submitting anything new. In fact, the vulgar taste that values things according to size has so laid hold of some men who act as judges, that they seem to have lost sight of one of the most important points in a gardener's practice, the necessity of growing things according to their natural habit, and so they admire plants as a farmer prizes a hayrick, by the number of loads it contains, indifferent to every other consideration.

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# To judge Balsams.

AS the vulgar error which has led to the appreciation of plants according to size, has prevailed to a degree almost beyond endurance, and totally destructive of all the natural characters of many plants, Balsam growers have been straining at the same string, and increased the size of their plants, to the destruction of the flower. Now it should be borne in mind, that no size will compensate for the conversion of a double Balsam into a *semidouble* or *single one*. It is well known that so long as you will provide pot room, heat, light, and moisture, with good air, so long will the plant increase in size; you have only to pick off the flower buds as fast as they come. We have seen the Balsam grown to four or five feet, but it has always been at the expense of the bloom, which, as the whole energy of the plant has been spent upon growth, cannot come fully double. The perfection of Balsam growing is to keep shifting as fast as the roots fill the pots, and to disbud the middle stem, until the side branches grow out well and show their buds also; confine all further disbudding to merely removing any few that take the lead, until they appear pretty even all over the plant, and then let them bloom, for the plant will then be as nearly perfect as the seed from which you raise will allow. If the seed be good, the flowers will be all double, but it would be possible so to excite and overgrow a plant that, although it would bring flowers three inches across, and double, if allowed to bloom at first, there will not be a double flower upon it, when grown to excess. Therefore, in judging Balsams, which will now be in almost every schedule for 1859, let us urge the necessity of looking first at the healthiness of the foliage; next, at the size, quality, and quantity of the flowers; last of all, at the mere size of the plant. The Balsam, to be perfect, should have the side branches half the length of the middle stem, at the least, and blooms to cover them all round, between the



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leaves. These blooms should be perfectly double to the centre. In collections, there should not be two plants of the same character, for the schedules all say *or mean* different varieties, and it should always be calculated that when a given number of any thing is to be shown, they must be different, unless specially mentioned to the contrary. At a show which came off last summer, the best six Balsams had four of one colour, much the same in habit, character, and marking; well, there was no help for it, a worse six, that were all different, had the prize. But, above all things, let nothing induce a judge to give the best prizes to semi-double flowers, or plants without bloom, while there are any, however small, that have the bloom on all the branches. There is no excuse for having two alike, while a shilling packet of seed will give fourteen distinct varieties.

A LOOKER ON.

## The Great National Dahlia Exhibition,

AT ST. JAMES'S HALL.

[*From the Florist.*]

THE magnitude of the exhibition will be shown by stating that the collections of named flowers staged for competition comprised the great number of one thousand, three hundred, and seventy-six. This is exclusive of those in designs, groups, and seedlings. Of the latter, there was a large number. We propose, however, to allude only to such as were exhibited in the successful collections. The number of blooms in these amounted to six hundred and ninety, and give the following result, namely, one hundred and thirty-five varieties of selfs, or show flowers, which included twenty-three new kinds—those sent out in 1858. All are English raised, with the exception of three from the Continent—Pandora, Deutche Wierde,

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and Triomphe de Pecq—and one Scotch, the Hon. Mrs. Trotter. The oldest Dahlia shown was Essex Triumph, sent out in 1842. The new flowers we propose to deal with chiefly in this summary, being of opinion that they took a prominent position, and it will be as interesting as it is instructive to note those shown the most times, indicating thereby their constancy, which will serve as a guide to the grower, another season. The number of winning stands of selfs was twenty-four; and the largest number of any flower shown, namely, Miss Pressley, fourteen, which, to be absent only from ten of the winning stands, was remarkable. As many grow the new kinds but partially, we give them, arranged according to the positions they took.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Miss Pressley | 14 | King | 3 |
| Village Gem | 13 | Alice Downie | 3 |
| Commander | 12 | Loveliness | 3 |
| Marion | 12 | Hon. Mrs. Trotter | 3 |
| Mrs. Church | 11 | Sir J. Paxton | 3 |
| Elizabeth | 6 | Sir C. Campbell | 2 |
| Mr. Crit'het | 6 | Lord Fielding | 2 |
| Standard Bearer | 6 | Peerless | 2 |
| Venus | 5 | Sir J. Watts | 1 |
| Goldfinder | 4 | Mars | 1 |
| Lady Mildmay | 4 | Marchioness of Aylesbury | 1 |
| Miss Watts | 4 | | |

In all, one hundred and nineteen blooms of new varieties

In old kinds, Cherub stands at the head of the list, having been shown in twenty-two out of twenty-three winning stands, as one of the collections could only contain new flowers. The following twelve varieties were the most successful:—

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Cherub | 22 | Midnight | 12 |
| Lord Palmerston | 17 | Perfection | 11 |
| Lady Popham | 15 | Pre-eminent | 11 |
| Lollipop | 14 | Touchstone | 11 |
| Lord Bath | 13 | Pandora | 10 |
| Colonel Windham | 12 | Amazon | 10 |

Fifty varieties were shown once only; these were old kinds, or seedlings, only in the raisers' hands.

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In fancy varieties, there were not so many new flowers, the productions, of late, not having sustained what was expected of them, when they were seedlings. The winning stands contained sixty-three kinds, ten of which were new. They stood respectively—

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Jupiter | 5 | Village Bride | 2 |
| Oliver Twist | 4 | Countess of Bective | 1 |
| Mrs. Boshell | 3 | Favourite | 1 |
| Beauty of Higheross | 2 | Tiger | 1 |
| Marc Antony | 2 | Papilio | 1 |

Of old kinds most times shown we may enumerate,

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Lady Paxton | 9 | Souter Johnny | 5 |
| Charles Perry | 8 | Triomphe de Roubaix | 5 |
| Coronation | 7 | Duchess of Kent | 4 |
| Conqueror | 7 | Enchantress | 4 |
| Baron Alderson | 5 | La Defi | 4 |
| Empress Eugenie | 5 | Gloire de Kain | 3 |

By far the finest Fancy Dahlia shown was Baron Alderson. It is not so easy to fix on the finest in the other class, there being so many perfect specimens, but perhaps Lady Popham would have the most admirers.

In the new flowers, Village Gem was most conspicuous, and certainly carried the palm: in form and delicacy of marking it was most beautiful. Miss Pressley, Commander, Mrs. Church, Marion, and King were very good.

Midnight, in the older kinds, was greatly admired, as it deserved to be: it is by far the best dark shaded variety. There were no end of fine Cherubs, Lady Pophams, Col. Windhams, Touchstones, and Perfections.

## Midland Tulip Exhibition.

THE exhibition of this society took place in the Derby Arboretum, in conjunction with the Midland Horticultural Society, on Whit-Tuesday, May 25, and a first-rate exhibition it was, in every respect. The Tulips were particularly fine, and as a

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whole superior to those shown at the National. The following are the awards.

Pans of Six Distinct Varieties, Two in each Class.—1. Mr. Allestree, Draycott, Heroine, Lady C. Gordon, Gem, Blœmart, Sovereign, and Pilot. 2. Mr. Godfrey, Chellaston, Heroine, Triomphe Royale, Maid of Orleans, Queen Charlotte, Sovereign, and Vivid. 3. Mr. Spencer, of Thulstone, Aglaia, Vicar of Radford, Victoria, Salvator (Gibbons), Sovereign, and Pilot. 4. Mr. Parkins, Derby, Heroine, Aglaia, Gem, Sarah Ann, Sovereign, and Pilot. 5. Mr. Lowe, Derby, Heroine, Triomphe Royale, Maid of Orleans, Queen Charlotte, Sovereign, and Pilot. 6. Mr. Wade, Derby, Heroine, Aglaia, Gem, Orleans flamed, Sovereign, and Pilot. 7. W. Worthington, Esq., Newton Park. Heroine, Aglaia, David, Duchess of Sutherland, Sphinx, and Prince of the Netherlands. 8. Mr. Orchard, Derby, Heroine, Triomphe Royale, Chellaston Beauty, Queen Charlotte, Sovereign, and Polyphemus. 9. Mr. Forman, Chellaston, Heroine, Triomphe Royale, Maid of Orleans, Sarah Ann, Sovereign, and Pilot.

Breeder Pans, Six Distint Varieties, Two in each Class.—1. Mr. Allestree, Juliet, Gem, Princess Royal, seedling (Willison), Sir J. Paxton, seedling (Storer). 2. Mr. Parkins, Anastasia, Catherine, Orleans, Purple Perfection, seedling, and Pilot, 3. Mr. Lowe, Catherine, Cerito, Sarah Ann, Violet le Grand. Hamilton, and Pilot.

The Best in each Class, in the entire Exhibition.—Feathered rose, Heroine, Mr. Allestree. Flamed rose, Triomphe Royale, Mr. Godfrey. Feathered Byblœmen, Maid of Orleans, Mr. Godfrey. Flamed Byblœmen, Duchess of Sutherland, W. Worthington, Esq. Feathered Bizarre, Sovereign, Mr. Allestree. Flamed Bizarre, Polyphemus, Mr. Orchard.

T. ALLESTREE.

## The Exhibitions of the Month.

THE great winter exhibition of fruit and plants came off on Wednesday and Thursday, November 17th and 18th, at St. James's Hall, and was well attended on both days. Their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Cambridge and the Princess Mary honoured the exhibition with an early inspection. The arrangement of the fruit was much enhanced by the introduction of fine-foliage plants and Chrysanthemums.



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The latter were exceedingly fine. The collections of fruit were extensive, and filled three large tables, the whole length of the Hall, besides the cross tables, at the top and bottom. The following list will give some idea of the quantity of fruit and plants exhibited on this occasion. Collections of fruit, two entries—Pine-apples, 35; Grapes, 50; Pears, 196; Apples, 106; Oranges, 8; Melons, 5; Plums, 15; Strawberries, 4; Tropical fruits, 3; Dioscorea, 5; Plants, 22; Chrysanthemums, 10; Total, 489. The Pineapples were fine; Pears and Apples very good, and above the average, attributable, I think, to the fine summer we have just experienced. The Grapes were fair, but, with one or two exceptions, not equal to what we saw at the June shows, at Chiswick and the Park. There were several other fruits, in the miscellaneous class, worth notice, if time and space would allow, including Citrons, Melons, Plums, Alpine Strawberries, Currants, Raspberries, Eriginea regnis, &c. The exhibition was excellent, and appeared to give great satisfaction, and was, we think, altogether a decided success. The fruit and flowers were admirably arranged, by Mr. Henderson, of the Horticultural Society's gardens, Chiswick.—M. Busby, F.H.S.

Midland Counties Chrysanthemum Society.—The first public exhibition of this flower, in Nottingham, took place in the large room of the Mechanics' Hall, on Monday, November 15. Around the room, were ranged in rows, three deep, large specimen plants, and down the centre were tables, on which were displayed the cut blooms. The general effect was pleasing, the various colours of the Chrysanthemums combining admirably with the foliage of the plants. At one o'clock, the doors were opened, and there was a good number of visiters, principally subscribers. The attendance continued to be good, during the afternoon, while from six till half-past nine, the influx of visiters was quite large enough for general comfort. We shall not criticise the productions of the various exhibiters.

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Mr. J. H. Bird, of Stoke Newington, acted as censor, and was kind enough to bring with him the finest collection of cut blooms (thirty in number) ever seen in Nottingham. Few persons had any idea that the Chrysanthemum could be brought to such a standard of perfection, and the various comments of praise made by visiters, were coupled with exclamations of delight and surprise; indeed it was with difficulty that some of the evening visiters could be persuaded that they were not Dahlias. The varieties were Antigone, Cassy, Princess Marie, Vesta, Elizabeth, Auguste Mie, Beaute du Nord, Duke, Madame Andre, Golden Cluster, Trilby, Pio Nono, Queen of England, Arigena, Dupont de l'Eure, Themis, Etoile Polaire, Stellaris globosa, Plutus, Nonpareil, Beauty, Alfred, Goliath, Voltaire, Albin, Madame Godereau, Miss Kate, Hermine, Marguerite de York, Gluck.

## Our Miscellany.

THE fifth and last show of the Royal Oxfordshire Horticultural Society was held on the 15th of September. The cut flowers were remarkably good. Of German Asters twenty-two stands were exhibited, and prizes awarded, 1st, to Mr. Phillips; 2nd, Mr. Molyneux; 3rd, Mr. T. Haynes; 4th, Mr. Betteridge, Abingdon; 5th, Mr. Clinkard; 6th, Mr. G. Kirtland; 7th, Earl of Abingdon; and 8th, Mr. Styles. French Asters were equally good. The prizes were, 1st, Mr. Walker, Thame; 2nd, Mr. Betteridge; 3rd, Mr. Price; 4th, Mr. Bragg, Slough. The Dahlias were both very numerous and very fine. The first prizes for twenty-four and eighteen blooms were awarded to Mr. Walker, of Thame; and the second to Messrs. Soden, Middle Barton. The best blooms were Annie, Rachel Rawlings, Midnight, Perfection, Lollipop, Lord Palmerston, Cherub, Mrs. Wheeler, Goldfinder, Chrysalis, and Edward. In a stand exhibited by Mr. Turner, of Slough, not for competition, the best were

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Village Gem, Mayor (Fellowes), Midnight, Lord Cardigan, Harbinger, Dr. Gully, Mrs. Church, Lord Fielding, Colonel Windham, Elizabeth, Lady Popham, Marion, and Oliver Twist (Fancy). Of plants there was but a poor display. The Fuchsias were also very poor. I cannot do better than recommend our Oxford friends to *go to Bath*, to see how Fuchsias are grown. The fruits and vegetables were remarkably fine, quite as good as any I have seen this season. The show was well attended.—W. S.

In answer to a Lady Tulip Grower, I beg to observe, that about the latter end of April or beginning of May, the Tulip bed should be watered through a fine-rosed can or syringe. This will clear the foliage, stem, and bud from any impurities that may have lodged on them, besides otherwise benefiting the plants. The bed must then be covered with a net, sufficiently fine to keep out bees, and over this may be thrown a calico covering, to protect them from the frost we frequently have at night, in the early part of May; or, what is better, a marquee may be erected over them, sufficiently large to walk under, and leave a path, three or four feet wide, round the bed. Very little pollen will fall, if the blooms are not disturbed, and this may be readily brushed out with a camel hair pencil, any time when examining the flowers, or a day or two before they are exhibited. It is the bees getting into the cups, and knocking down the pollen, that causes the dust complained of.—T. ALLESTREE.

At the Pomological Society, on the 11th of November, Mr. Lawford Richardson, of Eltham, Kent, exhibited Black Hamburgh Grapes, from the open wall, eight feet high, south aspect, beautifully ripened and coloured, medium size and excellent flavour, and decidedly the best examples of out-door culture that have yet been sent to the meetings. They were stated to have been grown on a border, of the following description. The natural soil, to the depth of two feet six inches, was trenched out, and refilled with brickbats,

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and old mortar, on the top of which was laid turfs, cut rather thick, with the grass downwards. This makes a good foundation for the roots, and keeps the loose soil from running into the subdrainage. On the top of this, eighteen inches of well-decayed dung and decayed vegetable earth, in equal proportions. The Vines are vigorous and healthy, and free from mildew, &c.—M. Busby, F.H.S.

Wireworms in Bulbous Roots.—Mr. Martindale, of Highbury-terrace, Islington, informs me that for some time he could not bloom the Lilium lancifolium in the open borders, the bulbs being destroyed by the wireworms. After trying various things, he at last bethought himself of using powdered glass, in the following manner. He prepared his ground, made a hole, put in a quarter of an inch of powdered glass, then half-an-inch of silver sand, and placed the bulb on the top; then half-an-inch of sand all round the bulb, with a quarter of an inch of glass all round, and then covered up in the usual way. He has not since been troubled with a single wireworm, and blooms the plants beautifully.—S. Broome, *Temple*.

## A few Words to Amateur Gardeners.

BY G. GLENNY.

It is an old but very true saying, that "a good many can help one when one cannot help a good many." There is, however, one exception, which, after crawling about this earth sixty-five years, I will venture to impress on the memory of my brother cultivators, and that is in the case of a public journalist. The truth, (for if there be but one exception, it is a fact) in this case is certainly not altogether reversed, but one-half of it is. A good many can help a journalist, but he can and does help a good many. There is something bordering on cruelty in neglecting to help the enterprising man who will, at his own risk, publish a work that no amateur can read without benefitting (I was going to write to the full extent of his outlay, but I will affirm) to a much greater extent than his expenditure. The value of this little and cheap work extends far and wide. The schoolmaster is a mere blot on a

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well-managed periodical; his influence is exercised on his scholars, who are numbered, while the influence of a book has no bounds, and little do you, my friends, know the trouble, the anxiety, and the cost which are heaped upon one man, if he does his duty by the public, or rather by the class he works for. The *Midland Florist* was the pioneer of cheap horticultural works. It was sneered at by the scientific writers. It was "no price for a book." "It would not answer." It was to be a mushroom, do its best and die. The prophets made a slight mistake. I can tell you, that a work, up to the mark, in the eyes of scientific and literary men, may please the few, the very few, who have no heart for anything but their own gabble, but would be of no use to the public, and I have found that your men of high attainments would not keep a mouse from starving. The *Midland Florist* was a work for the more humble class of gardeners, who numbered thousands for the others scores, and had the many done their duty by it, there was no limit to the number it might have circulated, amidst all its vicissitudes: one editor kicking up his heels because the proprietor would not give him more than he was worth; another retiring from circumstances over which, perhaps, there was no control; a gang starting a work in imitation and opposition, until a rupture separated them; in fact, the proprietors have had fifty adverse circumstances to contend with, and have persevered through them all, and what is the consequence? Why, the work lives to double the readers' good, however little benefit may be derived from it by the proprietors. It is of the greatest service to the reader, in every grade of gardening. Unfortunately for all those engaged in the business of a periodical, men are apt to say, "Oh, my own subscription can do no good, one subscriber can be no object," and under this silly impression, thousands are careless in matters of the greatest importance. I know little or nothing of the *Midland Florist's* affairs, but I will venture an opinion that however well it may be paying, it ought to be paying better; and although the present readers give the best proof of their own individual support, by becoming readers, and of their approval by continuing to be readers, they ought to consider it a duty to press its claims on the attention of those who do not read it, and, for the sake of spreading its lessons among the thousands who as yet do not know its value, as well as increasing the trifling profits to be derived from so cheap a work, use their utmost energies to procure additional readers. Which of the present supporters could not, for an emergency, induce one at the least to become a new subscriber? I almost doubt if there be one among you all who could not persuade some garden acquaintance to do himself a service, for it is impossible to find a number of the work in which there would not be something new and good. I would have all cultivators recollect, that from the earliest records on the subject, the best florists were of the humble classes. What periodical represents them?

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Exclusively the *Midland Florist.* It was established for them, and should be exclusively supported by them. There is no lack of works to represent the dishonest dealer, the floral quack, the men of scientific attainments, but the *Midland Florist* represents practical men, amateurs, and the smaller dealers, and should be upheld against all opposition, and as the leading work on floriculturc. There are periodicals with pictures of flowers that never were seen, and never will be seen, published to deceive men into improvident purchases, but these are closed against honest contributors. The books are for a purpose, and everything like popular opinion is shut out; whereas the *Midland Florist* is for the million. Those who can contribute anything for the benefit of their fellow men are at liberty to do so, and nothing that can interest the cultivators of flowers is ever rejected. What then I have to urge is this, you are all interested in the only periodical that fairly represents and is adapted for the great mass of amateur florists. It requires a sale of many thousands to make it pay the proprietors as it ought. Go then, each, and secure a new subscriber, that its present sale, great as it is, may be doubled at the beginning of the new year.

## To the Readers of the Midland Florist.

THERE are but few, if any, of us, who peruse the pages of this work, but must acknowledge that we get some INTELLIGIBLE information. It is not, as in some works, merely "see to your Auriculas," but it tells us what tc do, and how to do it; and if we are at a loss how to manage our plants, we have only to write to the editor, and we get the best "advice gratis," and such as an amateur can understand. Now what are we doing for the work that is doing so much for us? Do we lend the nnmbers as soon as we have read the article most suited to our taste, or the information we want? If not, let us do so at once, and let our friends have the benefit of it, and when we receive the number back, *solicit them to become subscribers for* 1859, and if we get only one new subscriber each, the circulation will be doubled. I am quite sure you will agree with me that it is to our interest to increase the circulation, for we have the promise of the editor to give us extra pages, should the issue increase. If suggested, I believe he would give a page for the kitchen garden. Some of us would like to know how to grow Vegetable Marrows in the best way, others Celery, Onions, Seakale, &c. There are some of us who show a sample of Marrowfat Peas with as much becoming pride as the lord or duke would show his Pineapples. The Potato again,—who is not justly proud of turning up a

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good root of Potatoes, after anxiously watching the growth of some sort that has been highly recommended? And who would not like to read some remarks about his favourite Cauliflower? Then let us all try to do our best, and see who can send in the longest list of new subscribers, and I am sure we shall receive a recompense for our exertion, in some way or other. It may be the information referred to, or a drawing, to show how to bud or prune, or layer Pinks, to nail our wall trees, Grape Vines, &c. However simple and intelligible the instruction may be, there is nothing like an illustration to bring home the idea to the mind. These or any other suggestions will be sure to be taken into consideration, if the income is sufficient to meet the extra expenditure, and the way to have that is to *double the issue*, which we can do, if we like to try. *Echo*—TRY.

A. F. A.

# Calendar of Operations.

AZALEAS.—Those plants which are now in bloom, and opening their bloom buds, should be placed in the lightest healthiest structure. If in the show house, free from drip, as that is particularly injurious to the duration of the blooms, and the permanence of their colours, causing blotchings, spots, &c. A weak application of clear tepid manure water, once a-week, will greatly assist in bringing the bloom buds to perfection. Introduce more into heat, as before directed.—EDWARD CLEETON, *gardener to E. Holland, Esq., M.P., Dumbleton.*

CINERARIAS.—Specimen plants will be growing very rapidly, and should be kept near the glass. Continue to peg down the leaves and shoots, regularly distributing them. This will secure a fine low head of bloom. See that no green or black-fly is visible. A little liquid manure water may be given beneficially, towards the end of the month. See well to watering; the plants soon lose their beautiful foliage, if allowed to get dry. Be careful in giving air and do not expose them to cold draughts, which is very injurious. Plants in frames must be well covered up, in frosty weather; if mild, give air at favourable opportunities. Some of the early varieties will be fast coming into bloom. Those not already in their blooming pots should be put in, without delay. The following twelve varieties are very fine, and deserve extensive cultivation:—Attraction, Baroness Rothschild, Editor, Fascination, Imperial Prince, Mrs. Livingstone, Mars, Optima, Perfection, Regalia, Sir Charles Napier, Wonderful.—JOHN DOBSON, *Woodlands Nursery, Islewbrth.*

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CHRYSANTHEMUMS.—No time should be lost in taking off suckers from the best varieties, for next year's blooming, keeping them in forty-eight or sixty pots, in cold frames, through the winter. Those tender sorts that are likely to be hurt by frost and wet should be taken up and potted, and placed in a sheltered part, where the cold winds and frost cannot touch them. Those that are more plentiful and hardy, will stand very well, if they are cut down to within two or three inches of the ground, and covered with a little leaf mould, sawdust, or ashes. Pompones are tenderer than the large varieties, and require more protection. If in pots, they may be turned down on the sides, and covered with a mat, or with straw, during the sharp frost, and set up again, when mild weather comes. Too much wet will rot them, consequently they should be carefully watched, and the pots be turned down, to avoid extremes, in bad weather.—S. BROOME, F.H.S., *Temple Gardens.*

EPACRISES.—If these plants have been properly cared for, according to the directions given, hundreds will be one mass of bloom by the time this is in print. Keep them free from drip. Water cautiously, and in the morning, but take care that none of the plants suffer from the want of that element. Give air on every favourable opportunity, and keep the night temperature at from forty to forty-five degrees.—E. CLEETON, *gardener to E. Holland, Esq., M.P., Dumbleton.*

FORCING DEPARTMENT.—*Early Vinery.*—Presuming this house to have been closed, last month, with but slight artificial heat, the temperature may now be slightly increased, from forty-five degrees minimum, fifty maximum, to fifty minimum and fifty-five maximum. The great point in early forcing is to begin "in time," at a low point, and increase the heat gradually, which is much better than waiting and then driving the Vines, to get the fruit ready by a given time. Where there is a pit inside the house, filled with tan, or other fermenting material, but little water, to keep up moisture, will be required, only syringing the Vines once a-day, with tepid water, and damping any dry parts with a rose, when the house is sufficiently warm for the purpose, avoiding moisture with a low temperature. Of course the Vine borders have been secured against frost and wet, by some means. We have not much faith in the benefit derivable from the usual coverings with fermenting materials, not to mention their unsightly appearance. We have seen a very useful covering, this autumn, composed of rather thin sheets of iron, five feet by three, turned up an inch at the edges, painted black, and each alternate sheet reversed, so that the edge of one laps over that of the next. This covering keeps the borders dry, and generates a deal of heat. A few mats, to lay over it at night, would prevent the escape of too much heat.——*Late Vinery.*—If the Grapes have been all cut, the Vines pruned and washed with the mixture given for the Peaches, keep the house cool and dry, presuming the wood



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is thoroughly matured, which it should be by the time the fruit is ripe. If plants must be introduced here, use as little fire as possible, and avoid superabundant moisture. Azaleas are the best plants to winter in a vinery, not requiring much water, and being in a partial state of rest at this season.——*Peach House.*—The lights may now be replaced and the house shut up, the trees pruned and painted with a mixture of sulphur, soft soap, and tobacco water, using cow droppings and clay as a body, and manure water as a liquid. Avoid lime and soot, as being of too heating a tendency.—M. Busby, F.H.S.

Fruit Garden.—Get all planting finished. Commence pruning Plums, Apples, Pears, and suchlike hardy things. Prune small fruit bushes, stake Raspberries, and top-dress Strawberry beds. A good dressing of loam, applied to fruit tree borders, will be found to be of great advantage.—William Shipley, *Buckingham.*

Fuchsias.—Towards the end of the month, we may commence in earnest growing plants for specimens, the earlier they are commenced the greater the chance of producing large plants. In repotting those that are rooted, or those that have been potted off, use a rich soil. The Fuchsia likes something to feed upon. The growth may be rapidly increased by occasionally syringing them, with a temperature of about fifty degrees. The greater part of the stock will be at rest. See that they are now and then supplied with water. They will furnish abundance of cuttings, when required. The best varieties for specimens, that have come under my notice, during the past season, are, Rose of Castile, British Sailor, Prince Frederick William of Prussia, Princess of Prussia, Guiding Star, Fair Oriana, Duchess of Lancaster, Queen of Hanover, Souvenir de Chiswick.—John Dobson, *Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth.*

Heathery.—This house should be well aired daily, and at night too, when the weather will admit of it, but particular care should be taken at all times not to admit cold cutting north or north-east winds. See that none of the plants suffer for want of water, which should be given on light or sunny mornings, when advantage can be taken of a little fire heat, to dry up the damp, before night.—Edward Cleeton, *gardener to E. Holland, Esq., M.P., Dumbleton.*

Kitchen Garden.—Little can be done here at this season. Get all vacant ground dug or ridged. In frosty weather, get manure on the ground, collect leaves for compost, protect Cauliflowers and Lettuce in frames.—W. Shipley, *Buckingham.*

Pansies.—The plants will be all in their winter quarters. See that slugs do not carry on their depredations. Those plants that are out of doors should be attended to occasionally, to secure the shoots that have been disturbed by frost or wind. A little protection, with a flower pot or small basket, made of

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the same material as the Strawberry baskets round London, will be found very beneficial. Give air to those in frames, at every favourable opportunity.—J. Dobson, *Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth.*

Pelargoniums.—The month of November having been tolerably dry, with but little frost, the Geranium house has consequently been kept dry, causing fewer foggy leaves to be visible than is usual at this time of the year. Most seasons, it requires more than ordinary care to prevent the leaves fogging off, even if every precaution is taken in giving air and fire heat. The May plants require no stopping, and therefore those that are wanted for this month should be selected out from the others. The June plants must be stopped back, towards the end of the month, previous to which, allow them to get dry, and give them but little water for a few days. A close house, with a temperature of about fifty degrees, will be beneficial, in starting the eyes. As soon as they have started, repot those that have not been previously shifted. In going over them, see that every shoot is stopped, which will ensure a regular head of bloom. The July plants must be kept growing, encourage young plants for this purpose. See to tying out the shoots of the whole of the specimen plants. which will admit light and air to the centre, and cause the shoots to be vigorous. Be careful not to excite the plants into growth too soon, by the use of artificial heat. The temperature should range about forty-five degrees. Greenfly must be carefully watched. Maintain order and cleanliness throughout the house. Go over the young stock once a week, to clear them, and occasionally stir the surface of the soil. Nip out the shoots of any that may be getting too long, or that are required to flower later than they would do, if left to their natural course. Air may be given as often as the weather is favourable.—John Dobson, *Woodlands Nursery, Isleworth.*

Roses.—Where planting has yet to be done, it will be better to defer it till March or April; but if the plants have to be bought, and are not already selected, go at once to the nearest nursery, and choose what you will require, marking them in such a manner that they may be known and not sold. Tender kinds will require protection, and the better plan is to lift them all, laying them in a shed, or very sheltered place, where heads and all can be protected. Those in pots should be in their winter quarters, where they can be protected from heavy rains and frost. A few may be gradually brought forward, as required. The Teas and Chinas are best for early forcing.—Henry Davies, *Great Stanmore.*

Tulips.—Protect from excessive wet and severe frost. Mats thrown over the bed, on the surface of the soil, will answer every purpose, removing them when the weather is fine.—T. Allestree, *Draycott, near Derby.*

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# Floral Exhibitions.

## TULIP SHOW.

At Mr. J. Dickinson's, Wheat Sheaf Inn, Sandbach, May 24th, 1858.

Judges.—Mr. Boot, Smalltham, and Mr. Johnson, Nutton, near Newcastle.
Premier Prize.—Charles X., G. Cade. | Maiden Prize.—Waterloo, J. Furnivall.
Best Flamed Flower of any Class.—Aglaia, G. Careless.

*Feathered Bizarres.*

1 Charles X., C. Johnson
2 Charles X., T. Bailey
3 Ditto, ditto
4 Charles X., S. Longworth
5 Charles X., C. Johnson
6 Charles X., G. Dickinson
7 Dentonia, C. Johnson
8 Waterloo, P. Johnson

*Flamed Bizarres.*

1 Duke of Devonshire, W. Downing
2 Duke of Lancaster, ditto
3 San Joe, G. Dickinson
4 Duke of Devonshire, T. Bailey
5 Hampton, W. Downing
6 Unknown, J. Furnivall
7 San Joe, G. Cade
8 Duke of Lancaster, C. Johnson

*Feathered Byblœmens.*

1 Bienfait, W. Downing
2 Violet Quarto, J. Furnivall
3 Bienfait, G. Cade
4 Lady Flora Hastings, J. Furnivall
5 Ambassador, T. Bailey
6 Maid of Orleans, G Dickinson
7 Unknown, J. Furnivall
8 Lewold, T. Bailey

*Flamed Byblœmens.*

1 Maid of Orleans, W. Downing
2 Thalia, P. Johnson
3 Bienfait, W. Johnson
4 Unknown, G. Careless
5 Emily, W. Downing
6 La Belle Narene, C. Johnson
7 Violet Wallers, G. Cade
8 Baguet, T. Bailey

*Feathered Roses.*

1 Heroine, C. Johnson
2 Heroine, T. Bailey
3 Andromeda, J. Furnivall
4 Comte de Vergennes, G. Cade
5 Lady Crewe, G. Careless
6 Comte de Vergennes, J Furnivall
7 Andromeda, G. Careless
8 Lady Crewe, G. Dickinson

*Flamed Roses.*

1 Aglaia, G. Careless
2 Lavinia, W. Downing
3 Aglaia, G. Careless
4 La Vandicken, W. Downing
5 Comte de Vergennes, S. Longworth
6 Aglaia, W. Downing
7 Aglaia, C. Johnson
8 Aglaia, T. Bailey

*Bizarre Breeders.*

1 Duke of Kent, G. Careless
2 Willison's King, C Johnson
3 Earl Radnor, C. Johnson
4 Devonshire, T. Bailey

*Byblœmen Breeders.*

1 Godet Parfait, C. Johnson
2 Sportsman, S. Longworth
3 Lady Flora Hastings, G. Careless
4 Roland, C. Johnson

*Rose Breeders.*

1 Miss Catherine, W. Downing
2 Lady C. Gordon, G. Careless
3 Queen Philippi, W. Downing
4 Andromeda, J. Furnivall

*Yellow Selfs.*

1 Min d'Or, C. Johnson
2 Yellow Model, W. Downing

*White Selfs.*

1 White Perfection, P. Johnson
2 White Flag, J. Furnivall

## SOUTH CHESHIRE TULIP SHOW.

At the house of Mr. Merrill, the Hawk Inn, Haslington, May 28.

Judges.—Mr. G. Blackshaw, and Mr. W. Downing.
Premier Prize.—Charles X., T. Salt.
Premier Maiden Prize.—Charles X., P. Johnson.



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*Feathered Bizarres.*

Steward's Prize.—Devonshire, J. Steele.
1 Charles X., T. Salt
2 Masterpiece, Captain J. G. Heap
3 Lord Lifford, T. Salt
4 Waterloo, J. Steele
5 Catafalque, Captain J. G. Heap
6 Sovereign, ditto
7 Optimus, T. Salt

*Flamed Bizarres.*

Steward's Prize.—Devonshire, G. Dickinson.
1 Green Man, T. Salt
2 Charles X., W. Merrill
3 Polyphemus, P. Johnson
4 Gold Cup, ditto
5 Terriff, T. Salt
6 Hampton, J. Furnivall
7 Vivid, Captain J. G. Heap

*Feathered Byblœmens.*

Steward's Prize.—Edgar, Capt. J. G. Heap.
1 Salvator Rosa, J. Steele
2 Lewold, Captain J. G. Heap
3 Bienfait, G. Dickinson
4 La Belle Narene, T. Salt
5 Roland, C. Johnson
6 Violet Amiable, T. Salt
7 Seedling, C. Johnson

*Flamed Byblœmens.*

Steward's Prize.—Comte de Marcon, E. Johnson.
1 Rubens, Captain J. G. Heap
2 Comte de Marcon, ditto
3 Alexander Magnus, C. Johnson
4 Bienfait, ditto
5 Lady Crewe, J. Furnivall
6 Violet Wallers, J. Furnivall
7 Lady Flora Hastings, C. Johnson

*Feathered Roses.*

Steward's Prize.—Lady Crewe, W. Merrill.
1 Heroine, Captain J. G. Heap
2 Bion, ditto
3 Count, T. Salt
4 Queen Philippi, Captain J. G. Heap
5 Mountain Sylph, G. Dickinson
6 Duc de Bronte, J. Furnivall
7 Clark's Countess, T. Salt

*Flamed Roses.*

Steward's Prize.—Triomphe Royale, J. Furnivall.
1 Royal, Captain J. G. Heap
2 Ditto, ditto
3 Vandyke, T. Salt
4 Queen Philippi, J. Steele
5 Triomphe Royale, Captain J. G. Heap
6 Alice Gray, J. Steele
7 Mary Lamb, C. Johnson

*Bizarre Breeders.*

1 Charles Albert, Captain J. G. Heap
2 Old Dutch, T. Salt

*Byblœmen Breeders.*

1 Princess Royal, C. Johnson
2 Roland, ditto

*Rose Breeders.*

1 Kate Connor, C. Johnson
2 Miss Catherine, ditto

*Yellow Seifs.*

1 Yellow Model, T. Salt
2 Min d'Or, C. Johnson

*White Seifs.*

1 White Perfection, J. Steele
2 White Flag, ditto

## TULIP SHOW.

At the Dog and Pheasant Inn, Mount Pleasant, May 28.

Judges.—Mr. Abraham Leech, of Ashton, and Mr. James Knott.
First Prize.—Charles X., and Sir Henry Pottinger, Moses Hadfield.

*Feathered Bizarres.*

1 Surpass Catafalque, W. Cottam
2 Charles X., Joseph Woodhead
3 Apollo, Thomas Penkithman
4 Waterloo, W. Cottam
5 Trafalgar, G. Chadwick
6 Wellington, W. Cottam

*Flamed Bizarres.*

1 San Joe, J. Woodhead
2 Paul Pry, G. Chadwick
3 Lustre, W. Cottam
4 Lacantique, G. Chadwick
5 Magnum Bonum, T. Penkithman
6 Unknown, T. Perkins

*Feathered Byblœmens.*

1 Beauty, G. Chadwick
2 Bienfait, James Knott
3 Violet Winner, W. Cottam
4 Mungo, T. Penkithman
5 Unknown, G. Woodhead
6 Washington, M. Wilde

*Flamed Byblœmens.*

1 Louis XVI., J. Woodhead
2 Adelaide, ditto
3 Bienfait, J. Woodhead
4 La Belle Narene, G. Chadwick
5 Roi de Siam, T. Perkins
6 Lucy Neal, J. Woodhead

*Feathered Roses.*

1 Lady Moseley, G. Woodhead
2 Comte, G. Chadwick
3 Andromeda, M. Wilde
4 Lady Crewe, G. Chadwick
5 Dolittle, W. Cottam
6 Lord Hill, T. Perkins

*Flamed Roses.*

1 Aglaia, G. Chadwick
2 Vesta, J. Woodhead
3 Poiner's Brilliant, G. Chadwick
4 Unique, J. Woodhead
5 Gibbons's Catherina, M. Wilde
6 Unknown, T. Perkins

*Bizarre Breeders.*

1 Unknown, T. Penkithman
2 Duke of Bedford, ditto
3 Unknown, W. Cottam
4 Unknown, J. Knott

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*Byblœmen Breeders.*

1 Orleans, W. Cottam
2 Lancashire Hero, G Chadwick
3 Unknown, W. Cottam
4 Unknown, J. Knott

*Rose Breeders.*

1 Juliet, G. Chadwick
2 Unknown, M. Wilde
3 Lady Lilford, ditto
4 Newcastle, W. Cottam

## TULIP SHOW.

### At the Q Inn, Stalybridge, May 29.

Colt's Prize.—Charles X., M. Wilde
Premier Prizes.—Charles X., W. Shelmerdine. Unique, T. Chadwick.

*Feathered Bizarres.*

1 Charles X., S Marsland
2 Surpass Catafalque, W. Shelmerdine
3 Truth, ditto
4 Waterloo, T. Penkithman
5 Phœbe, W. Shelmerdine
6 Magnum Bonum, M. Wilde
7 Crown Prince, W Wood

*Flamed Bizarres.*

1 San Joe, J. Barratt
2 Polyphemus, J. Miller
3 Shakspere, W. Pickering
4 Lacantique, W. Barratt
5 Albion, W Shelmerdine
6 Duke of Devonshire, E. Jackson
7 Lustre, W. Cottam

*Feathered Byblœmens.*

1 Edgar, T. M'Gregor
2 Bienfait, T. Chadwick
3 Violet Winner, W. Shelmerdine
4 Sir Henry Pottinger, ditto
5 Beauty, J. Barratt
6 Maid of Orleans, T. M'Gregor
7 Violet Amiable, W. Pickering

*Flamed Byblœmens.*

1 Competition, W. Shelmerdine
2 Queen Adelaide, J. Miller
3 Queen Charlotte, ditto
4 Bienfait, M. Wilde
5 Incomparable, J. Oldham
6 Louis XVI., J. Miller
7 H. & B., W. Shelmerdine

*Feathered Roses.*

1 Comte, W. Pickering
2 Lady Crewe, W. Barratt
3 Aglaia, W. Pickering
4 Lady Moseley, E. Jackson
5 Andromeda, J. Miller
6 Dolittle, S. Marsland
7 Village Maid, E. Garside

*Flamed Roses.*

1 Unique, J. Knott
2 Fairy Queen, W. Pickering
3 Aglaia, S. Marsland
4 Vesta, T. Chadwick
5 Rose Camillus, J. Miller
6 Mary Lamb, W. Pickering
7 Newcastle, S. Marsland

*Bizarre Breeders.*

1 Unknown, W. Barratt
2 Earl Radnor, W. Pickering
3 Andrew Marvel, J. Oldham
4 Gold Cup, W. Cottam

*Byblœmen Breeders.*

1 Van Amburgh, S. Marsland
2 Lady Seymour, W. Pickering
3 Mrs. Sherwood, W. Wood
4 Maid of Orleans, W. Cottam

*Rose Breeders*

1 Rose Gem, J. Barratt
2 Village Maid, W. Wood
3 Lady Catherine Gordon, W. Pickering
4 Arlette, T. M'Gregor

*Selfs.*

Min d'Or, S. Marsland
Perfection, E. Garside

## TULIP SHOW.

### Held at the Lomax Arms, Great Harwood, May 29.

Extra Premier.—Charles X., T. Gibson.

*Feathered Bizarres.*

Premier.—Charles X., R. Birtwistle.

1 Charles X., T. Gibson
2 Royton Hero, T. Chippendale
3 Truth, ditto
4 Earl of Surrey, ditto
5 Alfred, ditto
6 Sulphur, ditto
7 Waterloo, R. Birtwistle

*Flamed Bizarres.*

Premier.—San Joe, R. Housman.

1 San Joe, J. Baron
2 Charles X , R. Birtwistle
3 Lustre, N. Cotterill
4 Polyphemus, J. Baron
5 Garrick, R. Chippendale
6 Unknown, R. Birtwistle
7 Surpass Catafalque, J. Mercer

*Feathered Byblœmens.*

Premier.—Bienfait, T. Chippendale.

1 Bienfait, T. Gibson
2 Gibbons, T. Chippendale
3 Winner, J. Mercer
4 Grotius, E. Hodgson
5 David, T. Chippendale
6 Washington, R. Birtwistle
7 Gigantum, ditto

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*Flamed Byblœmens.*

Premier.—Prince Albert, J. Baron.
1 Bienfait, N. Cotterill
2 Lord Denman, T. Chippendale
3 La Belle Narene, ditto
4 Roscius, ditto
5 Queen Charlotte, J. Baron
6 Lawrence's Friend, N Cotterill
7 Incomparable, R. Birtwistle

*Feathered Roses.*

Premier.—Lady Middleton, E. Hodgson
1 Lady Middleton, T. Chippendale
2 La Belle Nanette, T. Gibson
3 Comte, J. Baron
4 Andromeda, N. Cotterill
5 Lady C. Gordon, T. Chippendale
6 Newcastle, ditto
7 Dolittle, N. Cotterill

*Flamed Roses.*

Premier —Triomphe Royale, N. Cotterill
1 Triumph, John Baron
2 Manteau Ducale, T. Gibson
3 Newcastle, T. Chippendale
4 Lady C. Gordon, ditto
5 Aglaia, R. Chippendale
6 Andromeda, R. Birtwistle
7 Unknown, R. Housman

*Rose Breeders.*

1 Martin (seedling), Edward
2 Martin (seedling), T. Gibson
3 Martin (seedling), E. Hodgson
4 Martin (seedling), R Birtwistle
5 Martin (seedling), E. Hodgson
6 Lady Petre (seedling), T. Chippendale
7 Martin (seedling), T. Gibson

*Byblœmen Breeders.*

1 Sancta Sophia, E. Hodgson
2 Pottinger, J Baron
3 Crusader (seedling), T. Chippendale
4 Martin (seedling), J. Mercer
5 Martin (seedling), R. Birtwistle
6 Goldona, J. Baron
7 Earl of Warwick, T. Gibson

*Rose Breeders.*

1 Charles Albert, E. Hodgson
2 Duke of Kent, N. Cotterill
3 Magog (seedling), T. Chippendale
4 Gladiator (seedling), ditto
5 Martin (seedling), J. Baron
6 London City (seedling), T. Chippendale
7 Devonshire, R. Housman

*Selfs.*

Min d'Or, T. Gibson
White Perfection, T. Chippendale

Mr. Gibson gave a kettle, for the best beaten bloom, which was won by R. Chippendale, with Bienfait.

## BRAMCOTE TULIP SHOW.

**At Mr. Bagshaw's, the Sherwin Arms, Bramcote, on Monday, May 31.**

Judges.—Mr. Allestree, Draycott; Mr. Disney, London; Mr. Barber, Stanton.

Pans.—1. Alfred Towle, Stapleford, Gibbons's No. 1, Mrs. Allestree, Heroine, Gem, Queen Charlotte, Sovereign, Devonshire. 2. John Atkin, jun., Stapleford, Heroine, Aglaia, Chellaston Beauty, Duke of Orleans, Surpass Perfecta (Davy), Captain White. 3. John Brown, Ilkeston, Heroine, Aglaia, Sophia, Baguet, Pilot, Sovereign. 4. John Atkin, sen., Sneinton, Elizabeth, Triomphe Royale, First-rate, Lord Denman, Dundas, Pilot. 5. Henry Walters, Stapleford, Amelia, Heroine, Midland Beauty, Denman, Augustus, Devonshire. 6. Thomas Greasley, Sandiacre, British Queen, Heroine, Lady Flora, General Barneveldt, Charles X., Pilot. 7. John Walker, Bramcote, Heroine, Triomphe Royale, Triomphe Royale, Lady Flora, Captain White, Magnum Bonum. 8. John Walters, Bramcote, Triomphe Royale, Triomphe Royale, Lord Denman, Lawrence's Friend, Devonshire, Augustus. 9. John Clifford, Bramcote, Lady Middleton, Camillus, unknown, Lord Denman, Sovereign, Polyphemus. 10. J. Winfield, Stapleford, Aglaia, Triomphe Royale, Orleans, Princess Royal, unknown, Sovereign. 11. Mr. Beck, Bramcote, La Polka, Princess Royal, Triomphe Royale, Triomphe Royale, Polyphemus, Sovereign.

*Feathered Bizarres.*

Premier.—Unknown, J. Atkin, jun.
1 Magnum, J. Walker
2 Sovereign, H. Walters
3 Platoff, J. Atkin, jun.
4 Omar Pasha, J. Atkin, sen.
5 Surpass Perfecta, J. Atkin, jun.
6 Sphinx, Towle
7 Polyphemus, J. Walters
8 Paul Pry, Brown

*Flamed Bizarres.*

Premier.—Pilot, J. Atkin, sen.
1 Captain White, Towle
2 Pilot, Brown
3 Caliph, J. Atkin, sen.
4 Polyphemus, Towle
5 Victory, Greasley
6 Augustus, J. Walters
7 Sir Walter Scott, Clifford
8 Milton, J. Walters

*Feathered Byblœmens.*

Premier. — Chellaston Beauty, J. Atkin, jun
1 Maid of Orleans, J. Atkin, jun.
2 Lawrence's Friend, Brown
3 Baguet, J. Atkin, jun.
4 Gem (Abbot), ditto
5 Victoria Regina, J. Atkin, sen.
6 General Barneveldt, Towle
7 Washington, H. Walters
8 Lady Flora, ditto

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*Flamed Byblœmens.*
Premier.—Excelsior, J. Atkin, sen.
1 Queen Charlotte, Towle
2 Lord Denman, J. Atkin, sen.
3 Maid of Orleans, Towle
4 Britannia, J. Atkin, sen.
5 Princess Royal, H. Walters
6 La Polka, Clifford
7 Sarah Ann, Towle
8 General Barneveldt, ditto

*Feathered Roses.*
Premier.—Heroine, Towle.
1 Heroine, Brown
2 Comte de Vergennes, ditto
3 Apollo, J. Atkin, jun.
4 Kate Connor, Greasley
5 Aglaia, J. Atkin, sen.
6 Miss Nightingale, Brown
7 Huntress, Towle
8 Claudiana, Greasley

*Flamed Roses.*
Premier.—Heroine, J. Atkin, sen.
1 Triomphe Royale, J. Atkin, jun.
2 Aglaia, ditto
3 King of Saxony, Towle
4 Anastasia, ditto
5 Nonpareil, J. Atkin, sen.
6 Unknown, ditto
7 Lady Jane Grey, Walker
8 Catherine, Winfield

*Breeders.*
Premier.—Orleans, Towle.
1 Seedling, Greasley
2 Ditto, ditto
3 Seedling, Towle
4 Seedling, Walker
5 No. 1, J. Atkin, sen.
6 Queen Victoria, Towle
7 Seedling, ditto

Newly-broken Flowers.—1. Wonderful, (flamed byblœmen), Greasley. 2. Mrs. Atkin (feathered byblœmen), J. Atkin, jun.

## NOTTINGHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

At the Exchange-rooms, Wednesday, June 2.

### TULIPS.

Twelve Blooms, four Bizarres, four Byblœmens, and four Roses.—1. G. Frearson, Ison Green, Pilot, Aglaia feathered, seedling, Princess Royal, Maid of Orleans, Heroine, Leonatus Posthumous, Polyphemus, Mrs. Frearson, Royal Sovereign, Aglaia, and seedling. 2. T. Gibson, Royal Sovereign, Aglaia feathered, Abbott's Gem, Pilot, Vicar of Radford, Princess Royal, Magnum Bonum, Triomphe Royale, Sancta Sophia, Duke of Devonshire, Allen's Catherine, and Liœmart. 3. John Spencer, Beeston, Lady Franklin, seedling, Royal Sovereign, Princess Royal, Vivid, Triomphe Royale, Venus, Lady Lilford, Lord Milton, Sancta Sophia, Rose Aglaia, and Catafalque. 4. I. Clark, Nottingham, Queen Charlotte, Triomphe Royale, Shakspere, Venus, Lord Lilford, Mountain Sylph, Pilot, Lady Franklin, Vicar of Radford, Princess Royal, Royal Sovereign, and Rose Aglaia.

Three Feathered Blooms, one of each Class.—1. W. R. Lymbery, Nottingham, Harriet Lymbery, Great Britain, and Heroine. 2. T. Gibson, Nottingham, Royal Sovereign, Willison's Queen, and Heroine. 3. G. Frearson, seedling, Triomphe Royale, and seedling. 4. I. Clark, Maid of Orleans, Comte de Vergennes, and Royal Sovereign. 5. T. Gibson, Magnum Bonum, Rose Magnificent, and Maid of Orleans.

Three Flamed Blooms, one of each Class.—1. T. Gibson, Allen's Catherine, Duke of Devonshire, and La Bien Aime. 2. Gibson, Miss Edgeworth, Pilot, and General Barneveldt. 3. I. Clark, Shakspere, Vicar of Radford, and Lady Franklin. 4. J. Spencer, Lady Franklin, Vicar of Radford, and Shakspere. 5. T. Gibson, First-rate, Vicar of Radford, and Duke of Lancaster. 6. G. Frearson, Princess Royal, Pilot, and Anastasia.

Mr. W. R. Lymbery obtained a first class certificate of merit for a seedling feathered byblœmen Tulip, exhibited by him, and broken by Mr. Pickerill, from a seedling of Mr. W. Marshall's, of Lenton, and named Mrs. Pickerill.

### PANSIES.

Twenty distinct Blooms.—1. Messrs. Small and Son, Earl Mansfield, Cossack, seedling, Beauty of Haverhill, Sir P. Sidney, Brilliant, Miss Talbot, seedling, Una, seedling, Mrs. Dundas, seedling, seedling, seedling, Lord Raglan, Era, White Model, Mrs. Dodwell, Satisfaction, and seedling. 2. J. Nevill, Esq., Duke of Sutherland, seedling, seedling, seedling, seedling, Miss Walker, Mayoress, Lord J. Russell, Crimson Perfection, seedling, Emperor, Sir C. Campbell, Satisfaction, Yellow Model, seedling, seedling, Brilliant, Midnight, seedling, and Mrs. Dodwell.



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## PLANTS.

Twelve Stove or Greenhouse Plants.—1. J. J. Marfleet, Esq., Azalea optima, Azalea formosa, Stephanotis floribunda, Statice Holfordii, Allamanda cathartica, Allamanda grandiflora, Dipladenia Cassinoda, Polygala Dalmaisiana, Aphelixis macrantha purpurea, Eriostemon buxifolium, Vinca alba, and Azalea optima. 2 Sir T. G. A. Parkyns, Bart., Fanciscea latifolia, Erica bergiana, Azalea alba magna, Meyenia erecta, Azalea formosa, Rhynchospermum jasminoides, Erica Cavendishii, Azalea coccinea major, Pimelia Nieppergiana, Polygala acuminata, Croton pictum, Pimelia mirabilis. 3. Mrs Lowe, Adiantum cuneatum, Tarachia præmorse, Platycerium alcicorne, Pteris umbrosa, Lycopodium Braziliense, Sedaginella rigida, Cænopteris bulbiferum, Microsorum erioides, Davallia divaricata, Nephrolepis Davallioides, Phlebodium sporodocarpum, Goniophlebium coriceum.

Twelve Miscellaneous Plants, in flower.—1. Sir T. G. A. Parkyns, Bart., Azalea Triumphans, Polygala acuminata, Gesneria Donkelaarii, Dracophyllum gracile, Azalea nitida, Erica Westphalingia, Pimelia Hendersonii, Erica ventricosa magnifica, Azalea arborea purpurea, Bletia Tankervillii, Aphelexis macrantha purpurea, and Erica perspicua erecta. 2. Messrs. G. Small and Son, Petunia Springfield Rival, Pelargonium British Flag, Sir C. Napier, Commander-in-Chief, Hendersonii, seedling Calceolaria, Brilliant, Alma, Elize Miellez, Geranium compactum, Crystal Beauty, and General Pelissier.

## TULIP SHOW.

**At Mr. Thomas Moss's, Grapes Inn, Church-street, Ashton, May 31.**

Judges.—Mr. Joseph Oldham, of Mottram, and Mr. Abraham Leech, and Mr. William Hall, of Audenshaw.

Silver Cup.—Charles X. and Bacchus, W. Pickering.

Maiden Prize.—Charles X, W. Greenwood.

*Feathered Bizarres.*

1 Charles X., R. Mills
2 Magnum Bonum, J. Lunn
3 Lord Lilford, J. Miller
4 Rising Sun, J. Hilton
5 Surpass Catafalque, J. Wild
6 Polyphemus, R. Mills
7 Paul Pry, J. Dicken
8 Duc de Savoy, R. Taylor

*Flamed Bizarres.*

1 San Joe (premier), J. Dicken
2 Polyphemus, J. Hilton
3 Charles X., T. Meilor
4 Ethelstan, J. Buckley
5 Lustre, J. Miller
6 Duke of Devonshire, S. Stopford
7 Donzelli, W. Pickering
8 Albion, R. Taylor

*Feathered Byblœmens.*

1 Beauty, J. Lee
2 Violet Amiable, J. Haigh
3 Bienfait, J. Dicken
4 Baguet, J. Hilton
5 Catherine, ditto
6 Mungo, J. Lee
7 Gracchus, W. Chadwick
8 Lancashire Hero, J. Newton

*Famed Byblœmens.*

1 Stockport Queen Charlotte, Chadwick
2 Duc de Bordeaux, S. Stopford
3 Bienfait, W. Matley
4 Bacchus, J. Miller
5 Incomparable, J. Hilton
6 Alexander Magnus, J. Newton
7 William Lawrence, W. Chadwick
8 Van Amburgh, R. Mills

*Feathered Roses.*

1 Heroine, J. Buckley
2 Mary Lamb, J. Newton
3 Lady Crewe, J. Lee
4 Rosy Gem, W. Chadwick
5 Grand Roi de France, J. Warren
6 Comte, W. Chadwick
7 Lady Lilford, J. Newton
8 Jupiter, W. Matley

*Flamed Roses.*

1 Rose Unique, R. Mills
2 La Vandyke, J. Lee
3 Aglaia, R. Mills
4 Rose Vesta, S. Stopford
5 Triomphe Royale, J. Haigh
6 Juliana, R. Mills
7 Fairy Queen, W. Pickering
8 Lord Hill, H. B. Cowburn

*Bizarre Breeders.*

1 Duke of Kent, J. Lunn
2 Polyphemus, J. Hilton
3 Willison's King, S. Stopford
4 Earl Radnor, ditto
5 Pilot, ditto
6 Lord Guilford Dudley, J. Wild

*Byblœmen Breeders.*

1 Duchess of Sutherland, J. Wood
2 Sancta Sophia, J. Newton
3 Princess Royal, W. Matley
4 Miss Forrest, J. Wild
5 Sir Robert Peel, J. Hilton
6 Roland, W. Matley

*Rose Breeders.*

1 Juliet, J. Newton
2 Lord Derby, W. Pickering
3 Village Maid, J. Haigh
4 Lady Stanley, S. Stopford
5 Lady Catherine Gordon, J. Newton
6 Celestial, W. Greenwood

*Selfs.*

White Flag, W. Pickering
Min d'Or, J. Haigh

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## TULIP SHOW.

**At Mr. R. Bent's, Jolly Carter Inn, Lowton, near Leigh, May 28.**

Maiden Prize.—Charles X. and Walworth, W. Prescott.

Premier Prizes.—1. Charles, San Joe, Napoleon, Wallers, Heroine, Unique, J. Collier. 2 Charles, Lacantique, seedling, Roi de Siam, Lady Crewe, Unique, S. Penkethman, Esq. 3. Charles, Duke of Lancaster, Bienfait, Bienfait, Lady Crewe, Triomphe Royale, W. Collier. 4. Charles, Duke of Lancaster, Baguet, Incomparable, Heroine, Unique, S. Ward. 5. Charles, Duke of Lancaster, La Belle Narene, Barneveldt, Heroine, Triomphe Royale, J. Boardman. 6. Charles, Lacantique, Bienfait, Incomparable, Lady Crewe, Unique, D. Talbot. 7. Magnum Bonum, Charles, Bienfait, La Belle Narene, Heroine, Aglaia. J. Rothwell.

Breeder Pans.—1. Polyphemus, unknown, Village Maid, S Penkethman, Esq. 2. Duke of Hamilton, Duchess of Sutherland, Lady Lilford, J. Boardman. 3. Duke of Hamilton and two seedlings, J. Collier.

*Feathered Bizarres.*

1 Charles, J. Boardman
2 Waterloo, W. Collier
3 Lord Lilford, T. Boydell
4 Crown Prince, ditto
5 Crompton's Fancy, J. Boardman
6 Magnum Bonum, J. Collier
7 Catafalque, S. Ward
8 Wellington, W. Prescott
9 Trafalgar, W. Collier

*Flamed Bizarres.*

1 Duke of Newcastle, S. Ward
2 Lustre, W. Prescott
3 Linnæus, J. Boardman
4 Polyphemus, S Ward
5 San Joe, W. Battersby
6 Dark's Dangerous, J. Boardman
7 Surpass Catafalque, J. Collier
8 Lacantique, T. Boydell
9 Stanley, J. Rothwell

*Feathered Byblœmens.*

1 Lancashire Hero, J. Rothwell
2 Mango, T. Ward
3 Bienfait, W. Collier
4 Catherine, J. Ward
5 Violet Winner, S. Penkethman, Esq.
6 Maid of Orleans, ditto
7 Prince de Maroc, ditto
8 Beauty, W. Battersby
9 Narene, W. Collier

*Flamed Byblœmens.*

1 Bienfait, S. Penkethman, Esq.
2 Roi de Siam, J. Rothwell
3 Wallers
4 La Belle Narene, J. Rothwell
5 Van Amburgh, S. Ward
6 Magnus, W. Battersby
8 Tout, S. Ward
9 A Fond Noir, W. Prescott

*Feathered Roses.*

1 Lady Crewe, S. Penkethman, Esq.
2 Heroine, T. Boydell
3 Hero of the Nile, S. Ward
4 Walworth, S. Penkethman, Esq.
5 Village Maid, J. Boardman
6 Hurst's Rose, D. Talbot
7 Dolittle, S. Ward
8 Andromeda, W. Collier
9 J. Rothwell

*Flamed Roses.*

1 Aglaia, J. Rothwell
2 Unique
3 Ponceau Brillant, J Rothwell
4 Rose Ann, J. Boardman
5 Vesta
6 Triomphe Royale, J. Boardman
7 Catherine, S. Ward
8 Lady Crewe, W. Collier
9 Unknown, T. Boydell

*Bizarre Breeders.*

1 Polyphemus, S. Ward
2 Charbonnier, J. Collier
3 Dovedale, S. Ward
4 Hamilton, W. Collier

*Byblœmen Breeders.*

1 Seedling, J. Collier.
2 Ditto, ditto
3 Godet Parfait, S. Ward
4 Maid of Orleans, ditto

*Rose Breeders.*

1 Village Maid, S. Penkethman, Esq.
2 Lady Lilford, D. Talbot
3 Unknown, T. Boydell
4 Lady Leicester, D. Talbot

## TULIP SHOW.

**At the Robin Hood Inn, near Audley, Staffordshire, May 29.**

Judge.—Mr. John Knott, Upper Hanley.

Feathered Premier.—Charles X., E. Eardley.

Flamed Premier.—San Joe, J Johnson.

*Feathered Bizarres.*

1 Charles X., J. Johnson
2 Masterpiece, ditto
3 Magnum Bonum, W. Kelsall
4 Cossack, E. Eardley
5 Surpass Catafalque, J. Johnson
6 Charles X., ditto

*Flamed Bizarres.*

1 Royal Sovereign, W. Kelsall
2 Negressa, J. Johnson
3 Leonidas, ditto
4 Surpass Catafalque, E. Eardley
5 San Joe, ditto
6 Duke of Devonshire, ditto

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*Feathered Byblœmens.*
1 Maid of Orleans, J. Johnson
2 Violet Amiable, W. Kelsall
3 Ambassador, E. Eardley
4 Maid of Orleans, ditto
5 David, ditto
6 Maid of Orleans, J. Johnson
*Flamed Byblœmens.*
1 Lucy Neal, E. Eardley
2 Arlington's George IV., J. Johnson
3 Princess Royal, ditto
4 Emily, E. Eardley
5 Prince Eli, J. John on
6 Lucy Neal, J. Johnson
*Feathered Roses.*
1 Comte de Vergennes, E. Eardley
2 Heroine, ditto
3 Comte de Vergennes, W. Kelsall
4 Heroine, ditto
5 Andromeda, E. Eardley
6 Comte de Vergennes, J. Johnsod
*Flamed Roses.*
1 Aglaia, E. Eardley
2 Ditto, ditto
3 Emily, J. Johnson
4 Aglaia, ditto
5 Aglaia, W. Kelsall
6 Triomphe Royale, J. Johnson
*Bizarre Breeders.*
1 Seedling, D. Brown
2 Seedling No. 13, ditto
3 Seedling, E. Eardley
*Byblœmen Breeders.*
1 Seedling, E. Eardley
2 Godet Parfait, ditto
3 J. Whittaker, J. Johnson
*Rose Breeders.*
1 Miss Boot (seedling), D. Brown
2 Lady Catherine Gordon, J. Johnson
3 Seedling, E. Eardley

## TULIP SHOW.

At Mr. John Walter's, Manor Inn, Fenton, Staffordshire, May 29.

Judge.—Mr. D. Brown, Newcastle-under-Lyme.

Pans.—1. Charles X., Rising Sun, H. Bradshaw. 2. Magnum Bonum, Polyphemus, S. Mountford. 3. Graff Marat, High Carlos, H. Goodwin.

*Feathered Bizarres.*
1 Charles X, S. Mountford
2 Rising Sun, ditto
3 Sunbeam, ditto
4 Charles X., ditto
5 Magnum Bonum, H. Bradshaw
6 Catafalque, S. Mountford
*Flamed Bizarres.*
1 Royal Sovereign, S. Mountford
2 Polyphemus, ditto
3 High Carlos, ditto
4 Royal Sovereign, H. Bradshaw
5 Catafalque, S. Mountford
6 Paul Pry, ditto
*Feathered Byblœmens.*
1 Elegance, H. Goodwin
2 Maid of Orleans, S. Mountford
3 Maid of Athens, ditto
4 Midland Beauty, ditto
5 Bienfait, ditto
6 Van Amburgh, ditto
*Flamed Byblœmens.*
1 Lucy Neal, H. Bradshaw
2 Czarinne, H. Bradshaw
3 Princess Royal, S. Mountford
4 Ambassador, ditto
5 Bienfait, ditto
6 Van Amburgh, ditto
*Feathered Roses.*
1 Aglaia, S. Mountford
2 Heroine, H. Bradshaw
3 Anastasia, S. Mountford
4 Bathurst, ditto
5 Lady Crewe, ditto
6 Comte de Vergennes, ditto
*Flamed Roses.*
1 Aglaia, S. Mountford
2 Ditto, ditto
3 Lady Jane Grey, H. Bradshaw
4 Triomphe Royale, S. Mountford
5 Andromeda, ditto
6 Vesta, ditto
*Breeders.*
Hamilton (bizarre), S. Mountford
Maid of Orleans (byb.), H. Bradshaw
Catherine (rose), S. Mountford

## TULIP SHOW.

At Mr. W. Emony's, Red Gate Inn, near Longton, Staffordshire, May 29.

Judges.—Mr. R. Moorley, Newcastle-under-Lyme; Mr. H. Penson, Hanchurch.

Pans.—1. Charles X., San Joe, Violet Amiable, Bacchus, Atlas, and Aglaia, A. Shaw. 2. Charles X., Polyphemus, William, Princess Royal, Comte de Vergennes, Aglaia, W. Emony. 3. Charles X., Duke of Devonshire, Addison, Midland Beauty, Triomphe Royale, Heroine, J. Johnson. 4. Charles X, Pilot, Queen of the North, Princess Royal, Heroine, Aglaia, D. Brown.

*Feathered Bizarres.*
1 Charles X, W. Emony
2 Charles X., D. Brown
3 Magnum Bonum, W. Emony
4 Colden, A. Shaw
5 Polyphemus, ditto
6 Rufus, D. Brown
7 Magnum Bonum, A. Shaw
*Flamed Bizarres.*
1 San Joe, J. Johnson
2 Charles X., W. Emony
3 Catafalque, A. Shaw
4 Charles X, W. Emony
5 Apelles, A. Shaw
6 Seldon, ditto
7 Duke of Devonshire, ditto

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*Feathered Byblœmens.*
1 Violet Amiable, A. Shaw
2 Chellaston Beauty, ditto
3 Ditto, ditto
4 William, ditto
5 Perfection, ditto
6 David, ditto
7 Prince Eli, J. Johnson

*Flamed Byblœmens.*
1 Venus, D. Brown
2 Duchess de Modena
3 Czarinne, W. Emony
4 Princess Royal, W. Emony
5 Princess Royal, D. Brown
6 Kerrza van Rusland, A. Shaw
7 Violet Amiable, W. Emony

*Feathered Roses.*
1 Comte de Vergennes, A. Shaw
2 Amelia, ditto
3 Comte de Vergennes, ditto
4 Andromeda, ditto
5 Catherine, ditto
6 Aglaia, A. Shaw
7 Heroine ditto

*Flamed Roses.*
1 Aglaia, W Emony
2 Triomphe Royale, A. Shaw
3 Aglaia, J. Johnson
4 Gibbons's Salvator Rosa, A. Shaw
5 Lady Jane Grey, J. Johnson
6 Triomphe Royale, ditto
7 Triomphe Royale, D. Brown

*Bizarre Breeders.*
1 Seedling No 10, D. Brown
2 Willison's King, A. Shaw
3 Sobraon, D. Brown

*Byblœmen Breeders.*
1 J. Whittaker, J. Johnson
2 J. Whittaker, D. Brown
3 Maid of Orleans, W. Emony

*Rose Breeders.*
1 Queen Henrietta, A. Shaw
2 Miss Boot (seedling), D. Brown
3 Anastasia, W. Emony

The show for 1859 will be open to Lancashire, Cheshire, and Staffordshire, and Mr. Emony will give five pounds to the fund.

## TULIP SHOW.

**At Mr. W. Wilkinson's, Gardeners' Inn, Blackburn, May 20.**

Judges.—Messrs. Gibson, Baron, and Houseman.
Maiden Prize, Charles X., E. W. Monk.
Premier Prize.—Charles X., J. M. Pemberton.

*Feathered Bizarres.*
1 Charles X., E. W. Monk
2 Catafalque Superieure, ditto
3 Waterloo, ditto
4 Abercromby, W. B. Fairbrother
5 Paganini, J. Foulds
6 Unknown, Waterhouse
7 Truth, Broughton

*Flamed Bizarres.*
1 Abercromby, J. Foulds
2 Charles X., J. M. Pemberton
3 Polyphemus, E W. Monk
4 Duke of Devonshire, ditto
5 Charbonnier, R. Haworth
6 Catafalque Superieure, E. W. Monk
7 Paganini, J. Foulds

*Feathered Byblœmens.*
1 Bienfait, J. Hadfield
2 Unknown, R. Haworth
3 Violet Amiable, W. Wilkinson
4 Beauty, W. B. Fairbrother
5 Lancashire Hero, R. Haworth
6 Seedling, J. Foulds
7 La Belle Narene, W. Haworth

*Flamed Byblœmens.*
1 Queen Charlotte, R. Haworth
2 Bienfait J. Hadfield
3 Incomparable, L. W. Monk
4 Alexander Magnus, W. Haworth
5 Lawrence's Friend, W. Broughton
6 David, J. Hadfield
7 Beauty, W. B. Fairbrother

*Feathered Roses.*
1 Lady Crewe, W. Haworth
2 Heroine, E. W. Monk
3 Count, J. Foulds
4 Andromeda, E. W. Monk
5 Queen Philippa, J. Foulds
6 Lady Catherine Gordon, Wilkinson
7 Hero of the Nile, H. Aspden

*Flamed Roses.*
1 La Vaudicken, W. B. Fairbrother
2 Aglaia, ditto
3 Vesta, W. Haworth
4 Unique, W. Wilkinson
5 Lady Crewe, H. Aspden
6 Unknown, J. Foulds
7 Lady Newcastle, W. Haworth

*Bizarre Breeders.*
1 Duke of Kent, W. Wilkinson
2 Pilot, J. Hadfield
3 Charbonnier, Waterhouse
4 Thorwalsden, Hadfield
5 Martin's Seedling, J. M Pemberton

*Byblœmen Breeders.*
1 Sancta Sophia, Broughton
2 Sir H. Pottinger, Hadfield
3 William Bentley, R. Haworth
4 Lady Seymour, Hadfield
5 Goldoni, ditto

*Rose Breeders*
1 Kate Connor, Hadfield
2 Agnes Strickland, Fairbrother
3 Martin's Seedling, J. M. Pemberton
4 Martin's Seedling, Hadfield
5 Madame St. Arnaud, Fairbrother

*Selfs.*
1 Min d'Or, E. W. Monk
2 White Perfection, Waterhouse
3 Yellow Model, Fairbrother
4 King of Yellows, R. Haworth



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## HOLBECK TULIP SOCIETY.

The first show of this society took place at the house of Mr. James Teal, the Black Bull Inn, Holbeck, near Leeds, on Monday, May 31. The blooms were not only numerous, but also good, and gave great satisfaction to a large meeting of growers and the public. The judges were Mr. Jonathan Jackson, Deighton, near Huddersfield, and Messrs. W. Chadwick and S. Housley, Leeds.

Premier Bloom (a certificate of merit).—Platoff, J. Boshell.

Pans.—1. Platoff, Polyphemus, Baguet, Maid of Orleans, Heroine, Rose Blanche, Pilot, J. Boshell. 2. Sovereign, Pilot Maid of Orleans, Princess Royal, Heroine, Triomphe Royale, Earl of Warwick, E. Schofield.

*Feathered Bizarres.*

1 Sovereign, J. Boshell
2 Ditto, ditto
3 Sovereign, R. Armistead
4 Unknown, J. Fryer
5 Unknown, R. Armistead
6 Sovereign, J. Boshell

*Flamed Bizarres.*

1 Pilot, G. Wood
2 Captain Slee, J. Fryer
3 Polyphemus, J. Boshell
4 Pilot, ditto
5 Ditto, ditto
6 Captain Slee, E. Schofield

*Feathered Byblœmens.*

1 Maid of Orleans, P. Kitchen
2 Maid of Orleans, E. Schofield
3 Baguet, G. Wood
4 Alexander Magnus, R. Armistead
5 Addison, J. Fryer
6 Royal George, J. Boshell

*Flamed Byblœmens.*

1 Britannia, E Schofield
2 Baguet, J. Boshell
3 Lord Denman, D. Naylor
4 R. Armistead
5 Unknown, J. Boshell
6 Rubens, R. Armistead

*Feathered Roses.*

1 Aglaia, R. Armistead
2 Madame Vestris, P. Kitchen
3 Heroine, J. Boshell
4 Comte de Vergennes, R. Armistead
5 Comte de Vergennes, P. Kitchen
6 Aglaia, J. Fryer

*Flamed Roses.*

1 Aglaia, G. Wood
2 Aglaia, R. Armistead
3 Triomphe Royale, J. Fryer
4 Triomphe Royale, E. Schofield
5 Ditto, ditto
6 Triomphe Royale, J. Fryer

*Bizarre Breeders.*

1 Pilot, J. Boshell
2 Ditto, ditto
3 Pilot, E. Schofield

*Byblœmen Breeders.*

1 Gibbons's No. 12, J. Boshell
2 Seedling, R. Armistead
3 Sancta Sophia, D. Naylor

*Rose Breeders.*

1 Princess Maria, J. Fryer
2 Village Maid, J. Boshell
3 Unknown, ditto

*Selfs.*

1 Cotherstone, F. Howe
2 Cotherstone, E. Schofield
3 Ditto, ditto
4 Cotherstone, F. Howe
5 Unknown, P. Kitchen
6 Cotherstone, J. Boshell

## GREAT NORTH CHESHIRE TULIP SHOW.

At Mr. John Goddard's, the Sportsman's Inn, Hyde, June 4.

Maiden Prize (kettle).—Sir Sidney Smith, W. Halsworth.

Premier Prize (silver cup).—1. Lord Lilford, Polyphemus, T. Leech. 2. Charles X., Triomphe Royale, J. Sidley.

*Feathered Bizarres.*

1 Charles X., I. Sidley
2 Lord Lilford, J. Mellor
3 Sir Sidney Smith, W. Halsworth
4 Masterpiece, T. Harrison
5 Lord Denersley, I. Barratt
6 Seedling, T. Leech
7 Surpass Catafalque, W. Halsworth
8 Polyphemus, Z. Peacock

*Flamed Bizarres.*

1 Unknown, W. Barratt
2 Don Cossack, W. Halsworth
3 Delaforce's King, Z. Peacock
4 Polyphemus, T. Leech
5 Lustre, J. Mellor
6 Albion, W. Halsworth
7 Surpass Catafalque, I. Sidley
8 Lord Lilford, R. Peacock

*Feathered Byblœmens.*

1 Bienfait, I. Barratt
2 Edgar, I. Sidley
3 Baguet, T. Leech
4 Violet Amiable, ditto
5 Maid of Orleans, J. Mellor
6 Prince Albert, T. Harrison
7 Violet Winner, R. Peacock
8 Unknown, I. Sidley

*Flamed Byblœmens.*

1 Fair Flora, J. Mellor
2 Duchess of Sutherland, I. Barratt
3 Incomparable, J. Mellor
4 Van Amburgh, T. Leech
5 Princess Royal, I. Sidley
6 Salvator Rosa, ditto
7 Bienfait, J. Mellor
8 H. and B., I. Sidley

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*Feathered Roses.*

1 Heroine, W. Barratt
2 Lady Crewe, S. Ardern
3 Aglaia, J. Mellor
4 Lady C. Gordon, W. Halsworth
5 Ponceau Brillant, I. Sidley
6 Rose Camuse, ditto
7 Willison's Gem, Z. Peacock

*Flamed Roses.*

1 Triomphe Royale, S. Ardern
2 Aglaia, T. Leech
3 La Vandicken, J. Mellor
4 Alice, T. Leech
5 Rose Vesta, ditto
6 Lady Catherine Gordon, Z. Peacock
7 Guerrier, T. Leech
8 Rose Camuse, ditto

*Bizarre Breeders.*

1 Duke of Hamilton, I. Sidley
2 Romeo, Z. Peacock
3 Masterpiece, I. Sidley
4 Seedling, W. Halsworth
5 Sunbeam, I. Sidley
6 Earl of Radnor, W. Barratt

*Byblœmen Breeders*

1 Jack Whittaker, J. Mellor
2 Van Amburgh, I. Barratt
3 Maid of Orleans, R. Peacock
4 Catherine, I. Sidley
5 Lord Denman, W. Halsworth
6 Midland Beauty, R. Peacock

*Rose Breeders.*

1 Juliet, Z. Peacock
2 Lord Derby, I. Sidley
3 Rosy Queen, Z. Peacock
4 Breeder, ditto
5 Lady Stanley, T. Leech
6 Anastasia, Z. Peacock

*Sets.*

Min d'Or, W. Holdsworth
White Perfection. I. Sidley

## TULIP SHOW.

At Mr. W. Kitchen's, Orange Tree Inn, Butley, near Macclesfield, May 27.

Premier Prize (Silver Cup.)—1. Charles X., Bienfait, Heroine, Duke o Devonshire, Pyramid d'Egypt, Aglaia, D. Potts. 2. Charles X., Edgar, Comte de Vergennes, San Joe, Gadsby's Magnificent, Aglaia, J. Chadwick.

Best Pan of Breeders.—Pilot, Godet Parfait, Rosy Gem, Mr. Nunnerley.

Pairs of Beaten Flowers.—1. Charles X., San Joe, Mr. Nunnerley. Heroine, Unique, D. Potts.

*Feathered Bizarres.*

1 Charles X , J. Hart
2 Charles X., D. Potts
3 General Blucher, ditto
4 Magnum Bonum, ditto
5 Surpass Catafalque, J. Chadwick
6 Paul Pry, J. Hart
7 Duke of Devonshire, Mr. Nunnerley
8 Don Cossack, ditto
9 Trafalgar, D. Potts
10 Ethelstone, Mr. Nunnerley

*Flamed Bizarres.*

1 San Joe, J. Hart
2 San Joe, J. Thorneley
3 Old Dutch Catafalque, ditto
4 Polyphemus, W. Kitchen
5 Pilot, D. Potts
6 Paul Pry, ditto
7 Charles X., Mr. Grimsditch
8 Lord Brougham, J. Thorneley
9 Lord Stanley, J. Hart
10 Catafalque, E. Warhurst

*Feathered Byblœmens.*

1 Bienfait, W. Kitchen
2 Violet Amiable, ditto
3 Bienfait, ditto
4 Lord Gough, Mr. Nunnerley
5 Edgar, ditto
6 Louis XVI., E. Warhurst
7 Baguet, J. Thorneley
8 Lord Denman, D. Potts
9 Incomparable, J. Hart
10 Delight, E. Warhurst

*Flamed Byblœmens.*

1 Bienfait, Mr. Grimsditch
2 Lord Denman, D. Potts
3 Bacchus, Mr. Nunnerley
4 Incomparable, J. Hart
5 Pyramid d'Egypt, D Potts
6 La Belle Narene, Mr. Grimsditch
7 Bienfait, D. Potts
8 Gadsby's Magnificent, J. Chadwick
9 David, E. Warhurst
10 Violet Wallers, J Thorneley

*Feathered Roses.*

1 Aglaia, Mr. Nunnerley
2 Heroine, D. Potts
3 Lady Crewe, Mr. Nunnerley
4 Comte de Vergennes, D. Potts
5 Andromeda, ditto
6 Aglaia, Mr. Nunnerley
7 Celestial, J. Hart
8 Duchess of Newcastle, Mrs. Kitchen
9 Naylor's Jupiter, J. Hart
10 Rosy Gem, ditto

*Flamed Roses.*

1 Unique, D. Potts
2 Vesta, ditto
3 Unique, ditto
4 Ponceau Brillant, ditto
5 Lady Crewe, Mr. Grimsditch
6 Triomphe Royale, J. Hart
7 Lady Stanley, ditto
8 Aglaia, J. Chadwick
9 Andromeda, D. Potts
10 Amelia, ditto

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*Bizarre Breeders.*
1 Seedling, J. Hart
2 Polyphemus, J. Chadwick
3 Pilot, Mr. Nunnerley
4 Old Dutch Catafalque, D. Potts
5 Duke of Hamilton, W. Kitchen
6 Willison's King, J. Chadwick
*Byblœmen Breeders.*
1 Sancta Sophia, Mr. Nunnerley
2 Lord Denman, D. Potts
3 Gibbons's Seedling, J. Hart
4 Glegg's No. 5, D. Potts
5 Princess Royal, J. Hart
6 Godet Parfait, W. Kitchen
*Rose Breeders.*
1 Lord Derby, D. Potts
2 Village Maid, ditto
3 Lady Lilford, E. Warhurst
4 Lady C. Gordon, J. Chadwick
5 Catherine, W. Kitchen
6 Lady Leicester, D. Potts
*Selfs.*
White Perfection, J. Chadwick
Strong's Yellow, J. Thorneley

## TULIP SHOW.

**At Mr. Evan Hall's, Boar's Head Inn, Ashton-under-Lyne, June 4.**

Pans.—1. Charles X., San Joe, Edgar, Bacchus, Lady Crewe, Aglaia, W. Chadwick. 2. Charles X., Don Cossack, Bienfait, Bienfait, Lady Crewe, Triomphe Royale, W. Matley.

Breeder Pans.—1. King, Duchess of Sutherland, Juliet, W. Chadwick. 2. King, Celestial, Duke of Cambridge, W. Chadwick.

Maiden Prize.—Charles X., S. Fish.

*Feathered Bizarres.*
1 Charles X., J. Lee
2 Sir Sidney Smith, T. Mellor
3 Surpass Catafalque, J. Lee
4 Lord Lilford, J. Miller
5 Seedling, J. Haigh
6 Royal Gem, T. Miller
7 Joseph Strutt, T. Mellor
8 Ambition, S. Shawcross
*Flamed Bizarres.*
1 San Joe, W. Pickering
2 Polyphemus, T. Moss
3 Charles X., W. Mellor
4 Pilot, W. Chadwick
5 Don Cossack, W. Matley
6 Cyclops, J. Wilde
7 Donzella, W. Chadwick
8 Petrarch, ditto
*Feathered Byblœmens.*
1 Bienfait, J. Buckley
2 Edgar, W. Matley
3 Violet Amiable, J. Buckley
4 Chellaston Beauty, S. Shawcross
5 Catherine, J. Lee
6 Countess of Harrington, J. Miller
7 Princess Royal, W. Matley
8 Beauty, J. Lee
*Flamed Byblœmens.*
1 Incomparable, J. Newton
2 Bienfait, W. Matley
3 Prince of Wales, J. Wilde
4 Bacchus, W. Chadwick
5 Stockport Queen Charlotte, ditto
6 Prince Eli, ditto
7 William Lawrence, ditto
8 Alexander Magnus, ditto
*Feathered Roses.*
1 Lady Crewe, J. Newton
2 Heroine, J. Buckley
3 Duchess of Newcastle, S. Shawcross
4 Jupiter, W. Chadwick
5 Village Maid, J. Lee
6 Glory of Walworth, W. Chadwick
7 Comte de Vergennes, ditto
8 Bion, ditto
*Flamed Roses.*
1 Triomphe Royale, W. Matley
2 Aglaia, J. Newton
3 Unique, S. Shawcross
4 Anastasia, T. Mellor
5 Vesta, J. Newton
6 La Vandicken, J. Wood
7 Pearson's Matilda, J. Kenworthy
8 Lord Derby, J. Mellor
*Bizarre Breeders.*
1 Duke of Hamilton, J. Haigh
2 Earl Radnor, ditto
3 Lord Dudley, ditto
4 King, W. Chadwick
5 Lord Darnley, ditto
6 Selden, ditto
*Byblœmen Breeders.*
1 Sancta Sophia, J. Newton
2 W. Bentley, J. Wilde
3 Duke of Cambridge, W. Chadwick
4 Lucy Ashton, ditto
5 Princess Royal, J. Hilton
6 Earl of Warwick, J. Wilde
*Rose Breeders.*
1 Juliet, J. Hilton
2 Lord Derby, J. Newton
3 Celestial, W. Chadwick
4 Miss Catherine, W. Matley
5 Village Maid, W. Pickering
6 Lady Catherine Gordon, ditto
*Yellow Selfs.*
1 Min d'Or, W. Chadwick
2 Min d'Or, J. Hilton
*White Selfs.*
1 White Perfection, T. Mellor
2 White Perfection, W. Chadwick

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## BOLLINGTON TULIP SHOW.

**At Mr. J. Beard's, Holly Bush Inn, Bollington, near Macclesfield, May 29.**

Premier Prize.—Charles X., San Joe, J. Hooley.

Best Pan of Breeders.—Duke of Devonshire, Purple Perfection, Village Maid, T. Oldfield.

*Feathered Bizarres.*

1 Magnum Bonum, J. Beard
2 Trafalgar, T. Oldfield
3 Magnum Bonum, ditto
4 Charles X., J. Hooley
5 Dutch Catafalque, T. Oldfield
6 Sysigambis, J. Hooley
7 Duke of Devonshire, ditto
8 Spencer's Duke, ditto

*Flamed Bizarres.*

1 San Joe, P. Hibbert
2 Polyphemus, T. Oldfield
3 Charles X., P. Hibbert
4 San Joe, ditto
5 Albion, ditto
6 Lustre, T. Oldfield
7 Dentonian, P. Hibbert
8 Duke of Devonshire, J. Hooley

*Feathered Byblœmens.*

1 Bienfait, T. Oldfield
2 La Belle Narene, J. Hooley
3 Lancashire Hero, ditto
4 Bienfait, P. Hibbert
5 Mrs. Dora, T. Oldfield
6 Baguet, ditto
7 Delight, ditto
8 Maria Antoinette, P. Hibbert

*Flamed Byblœmens.*

1 Bacchus, J. Hooley
2 Baguet, ditto
3 Unknown, P. Hibbert
4 Czarinne, ditto
5 Lord Denman, ditto
6 Georgius Tertius, J. Hooley
7 Bienfait, J. Hooley
8 La Belle Narene, P. Hibbert

*Feathered Roses.*

1 Lady Crewe, T. Oldfield
2 Lady Crewe, J. Hooley
3 Heroine, ditto
4 Comte de Vergennes, T. Oldfield
5 Duc de Bronte, J. Hooley
6 Prince de Austria, ditto
7 Cerise Blanch, T. Oldfield
8 Walworth, ditto

*Flamed Roses.*

1 Unique, P. Hibbert
2 Vesta, ditto
3 Unique, ditto
4 Aglaia, T. Oldfield
5 Clio, J. Hooley
6 Radiance, ditto
7 Andromeda, P. Hibbert
8 Village Maid, J. Hooley

*Bizarre Breeders*

1 Polyphemus, P. Hibbert
2 King of Saxony, J. Hooley
3 Duke of Devonshire, T. Oldfield

*Byblœmen Breeders.*

1 Godet Perfait, P. Hibbert
2 Purple Perfection, T. Oldfield
3 General Picton, J. Hooley

*Rose Breeders.*

1 Newcastle, J. Hooley
2 Village Maid, J. Beard
3 Lady Lilford, T. Oldfield

*Selfs.*

White Perfection, P. Hibbert
Min d'Or, J. Hooley

## MOTTRAM TULIP SHOW.

**At the house of Mr. T. Chadwick, Admiral Tollemache Inn, Mottram, June 5.**

Extra Premier.—C. J. Shawcross.

Maiden Prize.—1. J. Rowbottom. 2. E. Robinson. 3. J. Lawton. 4. J. Shawcross.

*Feathered Bizarres.*

1 Charles, G. Woodhead
2 Magnum, J. Oldham
3 Waterloo, E. Robinson
4 Lord Lilford, J. Miller
5 Surpass Catafalque, G. Woodhead
6 Rising Sun, J. Oldham

*Flamed Bizarres.*

1 Polyphemus, T. Chadwick
2 Charles, J. Oldham
3 Albion, J. Oldham
4 San Joe ditto
5 Surpass Catafalque, J. Oldham
6 Don Cossack, G. Woodhead

*Feathered Byblœmens.*

1 Maid of Orleans, G. Woodhead
2 Unknown, E. Robinson
3 Beauty, G. Woodhead
4 Bienfait, J. Oldham
5 Baguet, G. Woodhead
6 La Belle Narene, J. Miller

*Flamed Byblœmens.*

1 Maid of Orelans, J. Miller
2 Gibbons's H & B, T. Chadwick
3 Criterion, E. Jackson
4 Van Amburgh, J. Hilton
5 La Belle Narene, J. Miller
6 Violet Wallers, ditto

*Feathered Roses.*

1 Lady Crewe, G. Woodhead
2 Comte de Vergennes, ditto
3 Dolittle, J. Shawcross
4 Lady Grey, J. Oldham
5 Heroine, T. Chadwick
6 Newcastle, J. Oldham



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## GREAT SOUTH LANCASHIRE TULIP SHOW.

**At the house of Mrs. Booth, Nottingham Castle Inn, Denton, June 5.**

Silver Cup, for the Best Stand of Six Rectified Flowers.—Charles X., San Joe, Maid of Athens, Lord Denman, Aglaia, and Aglaia flamed, S. Barlow.

Premier Prizes.—Feathered, Charles X., J. Hart; flamed, Don Cossack, W. Whittaker.——Premier Breeder.—Earl of Warwick, J. Peacock, Esq.

*Feathered Bizarres.*

1 Charles X., J. Hart
2 Sidney, L. Peacock, Esq.
3 Surpass Catafalque, J. Knott
4 Lord Lilford, T. Leech
5 Royal Gem, J. Hart
6 J. C. Robinson, L. Peacock, Esq.
7 Marshal Soult, S. Barlow
8 Seedling (Cox). L. Peacock, Esq.

*Flamed Bizarres.*

1 Don Cossack, W. Whittaker
2 Polyphemus, S. Barlow
3 San Joe, L. Peacock, Esq.
4 Charles X., J. Knott
5 Pilot, S. Barlow
6 Prince of Wales, J. Naylor
7 Duke of Buccleugh, J. Peacock, Esq.
8 Delaforce's King, T. Harrison

*Feathered Byblœmens.*

1 Anastasia, J. Knott
2 Bienfait, L. Peacock, Esq.
3 Lord Vernon, W. Peacock, Esq.
4 Violet Amiable, S. Barlow
5 Venus, ditto
6 Maid of Falaise, ditto
7 Maid of Orleans, ditto
8 Queen of the North, L. Peacock, Esq.

*Flamed Byblœmens.*

1 Van Amburgh, J. Knott
2 Alexander Magnus, W. Whittaker
3 Princess Royal, J. Knott
4 Queen of Violets, J. Naylor
5 Violet Wallers, L. Peacock, Esq.
6 Gibbons, W. Whittaker
7 Flora, J. Hart
8 Unknown, L. Peacock, Esq.

*Feathered Roses.*

1 Heroine, J. Peacock, Esq.
2 Alice, T. Leech
3 Lady Crewe, J. Peacock, Esq.
4 Bion, S. Barlow
5 Lady Denman, W. Peacock, Esq.
6 Midland Beauty, J. Naylor
7 Aglaia, S. Barlow
8 Amelia, J. Knott

*Flamed Roses.*

1 Aglaia, W. Whittaker
2 Celestial, S. Barlow
3 Triomphe Royale, J. Hart
4 Vandicken, S. Burton
5 Flora Macdonald, W. Whittaker
6 Seedling, J. Knott
7 Bion, J. Naylor
8 Lord Hill, J. Baxendell, Esq.

*Bizarre Breeders.*

1 Hamilton, W. Whittaker
2 Paxton, J. Peacock, Esq.
3 Seedling No. 9, ditto
4 Pilot, ditto
5 Paragon, J. Naylor
6 Lord Raglan, J. Hart

*Byblœmen Breeders*

1 Earl of Warwick, J. Peacock, Esq.
2 Lord Vernon, J. Naylor
3 Delicata, S. Barlow
4 Duchess of Sutherland, ditto
5 Miss Forrest, J. Peacock, Esq.
6 Sir Robert Peel, ditto

*Rose Breeders.*

1 Lord Derby, S. Barlow
2 Juliet, L. Peacock, Esq.
3 Eugenia, J. Peacock, Esq.
4 Groom's No. 1, ditto
5 Arlette, S. Barlow
6 Amelia, J. Peacock, Esq.

*Sets.*

Model, S. Barlow
Seedling, J. Hart

## PINK SHOW.

**At Mr. E. Barker's, Eagle and Child Inn, Newcastle-under-Lyme, July 3.**

*Purple-laced.*

Premier.—John O'Gaunt, E. Barker.
1 Huntsman, T. Bailey
2 John O'Gaunt, S. Mountford
3 Blackeyed Susan, J. Bailey
4 Royal Visit, W. Griffiths
5 Auckland's Mary, S. Mountford
6 Flying Dutchman, E. Barker
7 Duke of St. Albans, S. Mountford
8 Cheshire Hero, ditto
9 Beauty of Rochdale, ditto
10 Guido, ditto

*Red-laced.*

Premier.—J. Sturge, T. Bailey.
1 Duchess of Lancaster, (seed.), T. Bailey
2 J. Sturge, T. Bailey
3 Lord Raglan, W. Wright
4 Royal Visit, E. Barker
5 Susanna, T. Bailey
6 Dan O'Rourke, S. Mountford
7 Seedling, E. Barker
8 Ditto, ditto
9 Dr. Hepworth, E. Barker
10 Jane, S. Mountford

*Black and White.*

Premier.—Kay's Mary, W. Wright.
1 Beauty of Blackburn, S. Mountford
2 Mary, W. Wright
3 Lady Boldhaughton, R. Moorley
4 Beauty of Clayton, T. Bailey
5 Lillia, S. Mountford
6 Blackeyed Susan, R. Moorley
7 Snowball, S. Mountford
8 Virgin Queen, R. Moorley
9 Lady Frost, S. Mountford
10 Mrs. Sarah, ditto

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